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Hafa Adai!

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Kan Pacific granted writ to sell IPI property

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The U.S. District Court for the NMI has granted Kan Pacific Saipan Ltd.'s request for a writ of execution that authorizes it to sell Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC property to satisfy an over $600,000 court judgment.

See PROPERTY on Page 4

Court: CPA breached sections of AUA

» SMA granted partial summary judgment in suit vs CPA

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Superior Court recently determined that the Commonwealth Ports Authority did, in fact, breach sections of its Airline Use Agreement with Star Marianas Air, Inc.

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph Camacho has recently issued an order granting partial summary judgment in favor of SMA in its legal dispute with CPA over the breach of contract claims brought before the Superior Court by both parties.

See CPA on Page 4

Israel strikes across Gaza after allowing another small aid convoy

DEIR AL-BALAH, Gaza Strip (AP)—Israeli warplanes struck targets across Gaza early Monday, including in areas where Palestinian civilians have been told to seek refuge, after another small aid shipment was allowed into the besieged Hamas-ruled territory.

Israel is widely expected to launch a ground offensive in Gaza following Hamas' brutal Oct. 7 rampage into southern Israeli communities. Tanks and troops have been massed at the Gaza border, and Israel says it has stepped up airstrikes in order to reduce the risk to troops in the next stages.

Fears of a widening war have grown as Israeli

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AP

Palestinians look for survivors after the Israeli bombardment of the Gaza Strip in Rafah, Monday, Oct. 23, 2023.

'Palacios mum on CCC request to use unspent $250K arbitration funds'

CHRYSTAL MARINO

BATTLE OF THE VOICES
The semifinals of the Music Performing Arts Competition Corp.'s Battle of the Voices last Saturday at the Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe saw 14 contestants advance to the Nov. 25 championship round. ***See story on Page 3***

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Casino Commission board is still awaiting Gov. Arnold I. Palacios' response to the board's letter sent over a month ago requesting the use of an unspent $250,000 so it could hire an executive director and five other personnel to assist the commission for three months.

DeLeon Guerrero

In response to *Saipan Tribune*'s inquiry about the CCC

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The second aid convoy destined for desperate Palestinian civilians reached Gaza on Sunday.
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SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

Local

Manglona hopes airport fee increase will be addressed soon

FERDIE DE LA TORRE
The Rota Swimming Hole on the the southernmost island of the Northern Marianas chain. Rota Chamber of Commerce president Steven McCoy said increasing airport landing fees could have a cascade effect that ultimately will result in a decline in business and tourism not only on Rota but the entire CNMI.

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Sen. Donald M. Manglona (Ind-Rota), who chairs the Rota Legislative Delegation, hopes the confirmation today, Tuesday, of the nomination of Jose C. Ayuyu and two others to the Commonwealth Ports Authority board of directors would mean the increase in airport landing fees and terminal fees will be expeditiously addressed.

Manglona stated during the delegation's meeting yesterday that, with the confirmation of the nominations of Ayuyu, Steve King Mesngon, and Dolores Pangelinan Kiyoshi to the CPA board in today's Senate session, that would give the CPA board the quorum it needs to address some of the issues that were brought up during the confirmation hearing.

One of those issues, he said, is to address the rate increases that the CPA board had adopted, and to reassess and see how they can reduce the rates.

"I hope that, with the confirmation of the three new members, they can expeditiously address the rate increases, especially the landing fee increases and to kind of see if that can be offset by some changes to maybe wharfage fees to support that," the delegation chairman said.

This came soon after Sen. Dennis James C. Mendiola (R-Rota) mentioned that Sen. Paul A. Manglona (Ind-Rota), as chairman of the Senate Public Utilities, Transportation & Communications Committee, has addressed the rising costs associated with increasing airport fees.

Mendiola offered a recommendation that maybe they can write as a delegation to CPA, stressing the support of vendors on Rota.

Steven McCoy, president of the Rota Chamber of Commerce, emailed Sen. Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) last month, stating that increasing airport landing fees could have a cascade effect that ultimately will result in a decline in business and tourism in the CNMI.

McCoy said such an increase of landing fees will cause higher operational costs for airlines, which could then result in reduced flight options and higher ticket prices.

To keep CNMI airports open, the CPA board adopted last month a new rate methodology that reflects a 90% increase in landing fees and a 79% increase in terminal fees starting Oct. 1, 2023.

McCoy requested reconsideration and encouraged a dialogue between the Chamber and Sen. Paul Manglona's office to explore more sustainable and equitable solutions for funding airport improvements.

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01
Saipan Tribune was among the most frequently used and trusted local news sources among CNMI residents surveyed

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66%
of CNMI residents surveyed reported using Saipan Tribune "often" or "all the time" as a local news source

02
72%
of CNMI residents surveyed perceived the Saipan Tribune to be "trustworthy" or "very trustworthy"

03

NEWS USE AND PERCEPTIONS
Use and Perceived Trustworthiness of Media as Sources of Local News*

*Source:
i Minagåhet – Ellet: Reporting the Truth in the Northern Mariana Islands by the Northern Marianas Humanities Council
A study regarding news media use and perceptions, news media literacy, civic engagement, and community values in the Northern Mariana Islands

https://www.nmhcouncil.org/mediasurvey2022/

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Ogo: Landing fee hikes will practically kill tourism on Rota, Tinian

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Ports Authority's decision to increase the landing fees of airlines using the CNMI's airports will practically kill the Commonwealth's tourism industry especially on Rota and Tinian, according to Rep. Julie A. Ogo (Ind-Rota).

Ogo

Ogo noted that all tourists coming to the CNMI have to enter Guam or Saipan first and then connect to Rota and Tinian via a single interisland carrier, hence the need for any subsidy that the CNMI may tap into.

The lawmaker talked about the decision to increase the landing fees in her recent letter to Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP), where she sought assistance in pursuing the designation of Rota as an Essential Air Service area.

Ogo said she is deeply concerned with the cost of medical air travel and evacuation services as well as the effect on commodity prices that are already exorbitant, as it is and will likely escalate exponentially once the new landing fees are implemented.

She noted that sea vessels remain unreliable in delivering goods to Rota due to inclement weather and equipment failures.

"These are all devastating impacts on our people's livelihoods," Ogo said.

WITH 10 ELIMINATED

14 moving on to Battle of the Voices finale

CHRYSTAL MARINO

Bench Legaspi, who won the MPACC's People's Choice Award, poses with MPACC officials and judges last week Saturday after the Battle of the Voices at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

By CHRYSTAL MARINO
chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

After the semifinal round of the Music Performing Arts Competition Corp.'s Battle of the Voices, 14 individuals will be moving to the final round, which will take place on Nov. 25, 2023, from 1pm to 6pm, at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

In the semifinal round last Saturday at the Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center, a total of 10 contestants were eliminated and contestants Lorenzy Leo, Sebastian Tajibmai, Dwayne Castro, Donovan Castro, Raniel Santos, Dean Borja, Arriane Antonio, Azenith Madelo-Avila, Jessel Antonio, Zoe Stephanson, Bernice Sabino, Rhobby Murillo, Donato Santiago, and Ronilo de Belen will be moving on to the next round.

One of the contestants, Santiago, who not only showed agility in his vocals but also confidence in performing, said he motivates himself by telling himself to "just have fun, and enjoy. Don't think so much."

Antonio's rendition of Christina Aguilera's *The Voice Within* brought an empowerment message to the contest. "It's important to be yourself, so if you do have some kind of talent that deserves to be seen then you must showcase it, regardless of how the outcome may be."

For first cousins Donovan and Dwayne Castro, proceeding to the next round of the competition together was something they were both excited about. Dwayne said "We've been doing this since forever. I don't see him as a rival. I feel like it's all good and fun. We keep it light."

Donovan added, "I told him from the very beginning, regardless of the outcome, we really want to support MPACC…"

Both agreed that the opportunity was a great way to showcase the many talents in the CNMI. "So, we want to say to the community out there, please come out and support, because this is a chance for us to showcase what we have," said Donovan

About the moments before the announcement was made, Dwayne said, "The anticipation before is a lot, but at the end it's all worthwhile. I'm good. I'm nervous but I'm glad I got it over." Dwayne added to Donovan "And I'm glad I'm going to the next round with you, my brother, not competing or anything, but let's have fun with this."

The cousins thanked their supporters, especially those who took time to make it to the event that day.

"We'd like to dedicate this move to them, to the family, especially those in the [United] States that are watching on Facebook," said Donovan.

MPACC's Arlene Reyes said the judges had their work cut out for them but she believes the contestants who made it deserve it.

"Congratulations to all the contestants. Each and every one of you are all winners," she said

Reyes said the MPACC plans to hold this competition again next year. "This is our first year. This is going to be an annual competition."

CHRYSTAL MARINO

MPACC's Battle of the Voices contestant Zoe Stephanson shares her voice during last Saturday's semifianls at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

CHRYSTAL MARINO

MPACC's Battle of the Voices contestant Dean Borja gives a very colorful and dreamy performance during last Saturday's semifinals at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

CHRYSTAL MARINO

MPACC's Battle of the Voices contestant Lorenzy Leo gives the audience some Adele during last Saturday's semifinals at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

CHRYSTAL MARINO

MPACC's Battle of the Voices contestant Azenith Madelo-Avila brings some to tears with an emotional performance during last Saturday's semifinals at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

CHRYSTAL MARINO

MPACC's Battle of the Voices contestant Sebastian Tajibmai sings a mashup during last Saturday's semifinals at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

CHRYSTAL MARINO

MPACC's Battle of the Voices contestant Ronilo De Belen gave the audience some rock and roll vibes during last Saturday's semifinals at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

CHRYSTAL MARINO

MPACC's Battle of the Voices contestant Bernice Sabino once again flawlessly delivered during her performance at last Saturday's semifinals at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building
P.O. Box 501220 CK • Saipan, MP 96950-1220
Tel: (670) 664-4282 • Facsimile: (670) 235-5131

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to the Open Government Act (1 CMC §9901 et seq), the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation ("CUC") Board of Directors hereby informs the general public that the Board will hold a **Special Board meeting** on **Wednesday, October 25, 2023 at 8:30 a.m.** The meeting will be held at the CUC Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building to consider the following agenda. Public attendance is welcome.

AGENDA

I. Preliminary Matters
A. Call to Order
B. Roll Call
C. Reading of Notice Calling Special Meeting
D. Adoption of Agenda

II. Emergency Procurement Purchase and Temporary Power Supply Back-up

III. Public Comments*

IV. Executive Session**

V. Adjournment

/s/
JANICE A. TENORIO, CHAIRWOMAN

*Public comments are limited to 30 minutes and each remark is limited to three minutes. Everyone is welcome to submit written comments.
**Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Board of Directors may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

ISRAEL

From page 1

warplanes have struck targets in the occupied West Bank, Syria and Lebanon in recent days. It has frequently traded fire with Lebanon's Hezbollah militant group, which is armed with tens of thousands of rockets.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu told troops in northern Israel on Sunday that if Hezbollah launches a war, "it will make the mistake of its life. We will cripple it with a force it cannot even imagine, and the consequences for it and the Lebanese state will be devastating."

Hezbollah's political movement is part of Lebanon's fractious government, but its fighters operate outside the state's control. Israel heavily bombed Beirut's airport and civilian infrastructure during a 2006 war with Hezbollah. Israel is meanwhile evacuating some communities on its own side of the border.

Rear Adm. Daniel Hagari said Israeli forces had wiped out eight militant cells in Lebanon over the past 24 hours and more than 20 since the start of the war, without elaborating.

More than 1,400 people in Israel have been killed — mostly civilians slain during the initial Hamas attack. At least 222 people were captured and dragged back to Gaza, including foreigners. Two Americans were released Friday, hours before the first shipment of humanitarian aid.

More than 4,600 people have been killed in Gaza, according to the Hamas-run Health Ministry. That includes the disputed toll from a hospital explosion.

Israel has carried out limited ground forays into Gaza, and on Sunday, Hamas said it had destroyed an Israeli tank and two armored bulldozers inside the territory it has ruled since 2007. The Israeli military said a soldier was killed and three others were wounded by an anti-tank missile during a raid inside Gaza.

The military said the raid was part of efforts to rescue hostages abducted in the Oct. 7 attack. Hamas hopes to trade the captives for Palestinian prisoners held by Israel.

On Saturday, 20 trucks entered Gaza in the first aid shipment into the territory since Israel imposed a complete siege at the start of the war. Israel allowed a second convoy of 15 trucks into Gaza on Sunday. Both entered from Egypt through the Rafah crossing, the only way into Gaza not controlled by Israel.

COGAT, the Israeli defense body responsible for Palestinian civilian affairs, said the aid was allowed in at the request of the United States, and included water, food and medical supplies. It said Israel inspected everything before it entered Gaza.

In a Sunday phone call, Netanyahu and U.S. President Joe Biden "affirmed that there will now be continued flow of this critical assistance into Gaza," the White House said in a statement.

Relief workers said far more aid was needed to address the spiraling humanitarian crisis in Gaza, where half the territory's 2.3 million people have fled their homes. The U.N. humanitarian agency said the 20 trucks that entered Saturday amounted to 4% of an average day's imports before the war and "a fraction of what is needed after 13 days of complete siege."

The Israeli military said the humanitarian situation was "under control," even as the U.N. called for 100 trucks a day to enter.

Israel has not allowed any fuel to enter Gaza, where there has been a full power blackout for more than a week and where hospitals say they are scrounging for generator fuel in order to keep operating life-saving medical equipment and incubators for premature babies. The World Health Organization said seven hospitals in northern Gaza have been forced to shut down due to damage from strikes, lack of power and supplies, or Israeli evacuation orders.

The lack of fuel has also crippled water and sanitation systems. Hundreds of thousands of Palestinians sheltering in U.N.-run schools and tent camps are running low on food and are drinking dirty water.

Israel repeated its calls for people to leave northern Gaza, including by dropping leaflets from the air. It estimated 700,000 have already fled. But hundreds of thousands remain. That would raise the risk of mass civilian casualties in any ground offensive.

Secretary of State Antony Blinken said Israel "can't go back to the status quo" in which Hamas controls Gaza and is able to threaten it, but that Israel has "absolutely no intent" to govern Gaza itself.

"Something needs to be found that ensures that Hamas can't do this again, but that also doesn't revert to Israeli governance of Gaza," he told NBC's "Meet the Press" on Sunday. "It's something that needs to be worked even as Israel is dealing with the current threat."

Israel captured Gaza, along with the West Bank and east Jerusalem, in the 1967 Mideast war. The Palestinians want all three territories for a future state. Israel withdrew troops and settlers from Gaza in 2005, but Israel and Egypt have imposed a blockade of varying degrees since Hamas seized power from rival Palestinian forces in 2007.

Heavy Israeli airstrikes and shelling continued overnight across Gaza, the Hamas-run Interior Ministry said. It said airstrikes hit residential apartments in the town of Khan Younis and the Nuseirat refugee camp, both of which are south of the evacuation line.

The Palestinian Red Crescent medical service reported heavy overnight airstrikes near al-Quds hospital in Gaza City. Aside from patients, the hospital houses more than 12,000 displaced people, it said.

The Israeli military says it does not target civilians. It says Palestinian militants have fired over 7,000 rockets at Israel since the start of the war.

The military said Monday that it had struck 320 militant targets throughout Gaza over the last 24 hours. It said it had destroyed anti-tank positions and other targets that could endanger forces preparing for "a maneuver in the Gaza Strip," an apparent reference to a ground operation.

Tensions are also high in the Israeli-occupied West Bank, where over 90 Palestinians have been killed since the start of the war, mainly during violent protests and gunbattles during military arrest raids. Two Palestinians were shot dead during a raid into the Jalazone refugee camp early Monday, the Palestinian Health Ministry said.

CCC

From page 1

board's request, CCC board chair Edward C. DeLeon Guerrero said yesterday that there has been no response yet from Palacios regarding their request.

DeLeon Guerrero said also disclosed that the CCC did not receive a penny from the $94,000-plus award issued by the U.S. District Court for the NMI from the bond's forfeiture pertaining to the court's injunction order forcing the CCC to enter into arbitration.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona awarded CCC $94,068 in fees and costs for the expenses it incurred during the arbitration proceedings.

Manglona directed the clerk of court to immediately release $94,068 to the CCC from the $100,000 bond provided by IPI.

The preliminary injunction prohibited CCC from revoking IPI's exclusive casino license while the casino investor pursued its right to arbitration.

Arbitration is a procedure wherein two parties agree on one or more arbitrators to decide on their dispute in order to resolve a disagreement outside of court proceedings.

The three-day arbitration hearing in Honolulu, Hawaii was completed last May, but before arbitrator Thomas J. Brewer could issue a decision, the Ninth Circuit issued a ruling.

At the CCC board's monthly meeting last Sept. 28, DeLeon Guerrero disclosed that he made the request in a letter to Palacios dated Sept. 9, 2023, and that the governor has yet to reply.

The chairman said they need that funding to continue their work in the coming months toward either a global settlement on the amounts owed by Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC, or license revocation and the issuance of a new license.

Aside from hiring back the CCC executive director, the commission plans, with the governor's approval, to hire a special assistant to the commission, a manager for the Division of Enforcement and Investigations, a manager for the Human Resources Division, an administrator, and a maintenance staff.

The previous Torres administration reserved $350,000 for the arbitration costs against IPI. Only $100,000 was spent, leaving a $250,000 balance.

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit reversed the U.S. District Court for the NMI's order compelling the CCC to subject to its complaints against IPI to arbitration.

PROPERTY

From page 1

Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona granted last Friday Kan Pacific's application for a writ of execution on IPI's personal property to satisfy a judgment of $697,801.30 plus post-judgment interest.

Specifically, Kan Pacific is now authorized to seize and sell IPI vehicles, liquor, the crystal dragons that decorate its cavernous lobby, casino-related equipment, and more.

"The court grants Kan Pacific's application. It is therefore ordered that the clerk issue the writ of execution to the U.S. Marshal for the seizure of IPI's vehicles, IPI's liquor, IPI's dragons, IPI's computer hardware, IPI's furniture, and equipment, IPI's casino-related equipment and security equipment, and any and all other personal property of IPI as further identified in the application for the writ. The clerk shall also provide IPI notice of its rights. Once the U.S. Marshals Service executes the writ of execution, IPI may file, in writing, any exceptions. Such filing is due 14 days after execution of the writ," said Manglona.

Previously, the court granted Kan Pacific's motion for summary judgment based upon a breach of contract claim against IPI.

On Dec. 2, 2022, a judgment of $697,801.30, plus post-judgment interest, was entered in favor of Kan Pacific against IPI. Six months later, the court issued a writ of execution over IPI's motor vehicles and heavy equipment to U.S.A. Fanter Corp., Ltd. a judgment creditor of IPI. Additionally, the court issued a writ of execution to Joshua Gray, another judgment creditor, over various IPI personal properties.

Recognizing that IPI's vehicles are already subject to Fanter's writ of execution, Gray sought "priority as to any unsold vehicles or funds still available after Fanter's judgment is satisfied."

In its application for a writ of execution, Kan Pacific acknowledges Fanter and Gray's writs of execution and "seeks priority as to any unsold vehicles or funds still available after Fanter's and Gray's judgments are satisfied."

After taking this into consideration, the court granted Kan Pacific's request.

CPA

From page 1

Specifically, partial summary judgment was granted after the court found that CPA breached sections 7.05 and 7.08 of the AUA, which pertains to annual usage rate adjustments and CPA's failure to provide SMA a copy of every CPA proposed annual budget since the AUA was executed up until it was terminated.

However, the court could not fully grant summary judgment because it found that damages could not be determined without further discovery as the court also found CPA's counterclaims to be true—that SMA also breached the AUA for non-payments.

"The court has determined that CPA breached section 7.05 for annual adjustments and section 7.08 concerning the proposed budget. In regard to CPA's counterclaim, SMA did not dispute the non-payment; however, the court found that SMA had indeed breached section 7.13. A summary judgment is granted when there are no genuine disputes as to material facts and the movant is entitled as a matter of law. Adding to that, questions of fact are not decided in a summary judgment. The court has found breaches by CPA and a breach by SMA, but the specific monetary extent of these breaches has yet to be established or substantiated," said Camacho.

Because the amount in damages could not be determined, both parties have agreed that specific monetary damages should be proven at trial.

"SMA asserts that this lack of clarity stems from their limited access to relevant figures. Both parties agree any damages would be proven at trial," said the order.

According to Camacho's order, CPA has failed to adjust the fees and charges each year as required by Section 7.05, in breach of the AUA.

In addition, Camacho stated in his order that CPA has failed to provide an annual proposed budget each year, as required by Section 7.08, in breach of the AUA.

In its counterclaim, CPA says that SMA failed to pay CPA for the use its terminals, breaching section 7.13 by not continuing payments.

SMA is suing CPA and five unnamed co-defendants for breach of contract, violation of anti-head tax, and for unreasonable user fees.

In a previous court order, the court found that Star Marianas has not met its burden of proving claims that CPA breached sections of their AUA, warranting a summary judgment.

"SMA has not met its burden to entitle it to summary judgment because plaintiff has not demonstrated absence of genuine issues and entitlement to summary judgment as a matter of law. Therefore, SMA's motion for partial summary judgment is denied," said Camacho.

SMA and CPA entered into an AUA in April 2009. Twenty years later, on Dec. 14, 2020, SMA sued CPA, claiming the agency committed six breaches of the AUA.

However, after reviewing SMA and CPA's arguments and facts, Camacho said in his order that there are material facts in dispute and SMA did not support its factual claims to show CPA breached sections 7.01, 7.02, 7.05, 7.06, 7.07, and 7.10.

Nava Khorram Ahmad graduates with master's degree

Nava Khorram Ahmad, who was born and raised on Saipan, has graduated with a master's degree in International Public Law and Human Rights (LLM) from the Riga Graduate School of Law, in Riga, Latvia. She is currently living in Riga, with her husband who is studying medicine.

Ahmad attended Brilliant Star Montessori School and Saipan International School, before moving to the Czech Republic where she attended high school. She graduated from the University of Lynchburg in Virginia, with a bachelor's degree in Criminology and Spanish.

After graduating with her bachelor's degree, Ahmad served as a legislative aide to the CNMI Legislature, supporting the committees on Health and Welfare, and Education and the Workforce. "It was so nice for me to be back on Saipan," said Ahmad. "It was a thrill to be able to work closely with issues related to healthcare and equal access, and I think it was this work that inspired the topic of my Master's dissertation." She also expressed her gratitude to her mentors in the CNMI legislature, former congresswomen Leila Staffler and Tina Sablan.

Her dissertation examined access to healthcare, and more specifically universal health coverage, and compared the successes and challenges faced in healthcare systems in the United States, the European Union, and the United Kingdom. "It was interesting to conclude from my research, that in the last analysis, we have to overcome cultural barriers and thought patterns about the right to health, before universal health care can be adopted. The reason the US seems to be far behind in universal healthcare has a lot to do with attitudes and cultural norms in society that place the rights of the individual above the well-being of the group," Ahmad explained.

As a result of her dissertation defense, she was invited to give the commencement speech to her class.

Ahmad is currently pursuing work in the broader field of development, climate sustainability, and disaster resilience. "My interest lies in helping bring equality to those populations with limited access to resources. While I may live in Europe now, my heart remains in the Pacific, the place of my birth, and I would be thrilled to continue to be involved in the endeavors of the region as a remote worker," she said.

Ahmad is the daughter of David and Mara Khorram, who in 1998 founded Marianas Eye Institute and Brilliant Star Montessori School. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Nava Khorram Ahmad gives the graduation speech at Riga Graduate School of Law, in Riga, Latvia.

Group assails latest Chinese aggression at West Philippine Sea

The presence and dangerous blocking of China Coast Guard Vessel 5203 that caused its collision with the Philippine public vessel used for the resupply mission to the troops at BRP *Sierra Madre* in Ayungin Shoal (Second Thomas Shoal) in the West Philippine Sea on Oct. 22, 2023 is a blatant violation by China of international law which they have been perpetrating for years.

For this reason, the National Youth Movement for the West Philippine Sea or NYMWPS, a peaceful, non-partisan and transglobal organization that advocates for the preservation of the Philippines' sovereignty and territorial integrity, condemns in the strongest possible word the continuous presence of the Chinese Coast Guard and other Chinese vessels in the West Philippine Sea.

"The use of gray tactics for one is a manifestation of China's wanton disregard on the rule of law. Relentless harassment of vessels, ranging from government patrols to Filipino fishermen sailing the West Philippine Sea, is totally unacceptable," it said.

On July 12, 2016, the Arbitral Tribunal unequivocally awarded the Philippines sovereign rights within the 200-nautical miles of the West Philippine Sea.

"The presence of these Chinese Coast Guard and militia vessels does not reflect the friendship both our countries have committed to foster."

Hence, NYMWPS calls on President Ferdinand Marcos, Jr., and other responsible agencies of the Philippine national government to continuously assert our sovereign rights in the West Philippine Sea, and to uphold the constitutional mandate to defend our territorial integrity and national interest.

The National Youth Movement for the West Philippine Sea has always maintained that sovereignty and sovereign rights are non-negotiable issues and that the Chinese vessels operating within the Philippines' Exclusive Economic Zone or EEZ and territorial waters must be immediately expelled. ***(PR)***

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NMC's Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society inducts 60 new members

Sixty students from the Northern Marianas College pledged to distinguish themselves through academic excellence by contributing to the community and the Commonwealth through various community service and leadership activities as new members and officers of the Beta Lambda Psi Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa or PTK International Honor Society.

The new members of the PTK Honor Society were inducted on Thursday, Oct. 19, 2023, at the American Memorial Park Museum Theater, congregating a total of 417 members in Phi Theta Kappa since it was revitalized back in 2019.

In order to qualify for membership in Phi Theta Kappa, students must distinguish themselves by maintaining a 3.5 cumulative grade point average, in addition to serving and contributing to the community through various community service and leadership activities.

NMC

The Beta Lambda Psi Chapter of Northern Marianas College's Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society inducted 60 new members on Thursday, Oct. 19, 2023.

"Since the revitalization of our local chapter five years ago, NMC has prioritized the recognition of our hard-working students and developing them for success. Our goal is to continue to encourage our students to work hard and embrace the pillars of scholarship, leadership, fellowship, and service in our community. I am so excited for our 'kappans' to connect and grow both personally and professionally as they finish their degrees and become contributing members of our CNMI workforce," said PTK advisor Kaelani Demapan.

The PTK honor society also inducted its new officers: Mary-Jo Camacho (president), Sharon Paek (vice president), Rumina "Mina" Litulumar (treasurer), Bonnie "Gio" Sagana (secretary), Hannah Agulto (membership secretary), and Ejay Aguirre (public relations secretary).

"On behalf of the 2023-2024 Phi Theta Kappa officers, I'd like to extend our sincerest congratulations to this year's batch of PTK inductees," said PTK president Mary-Jo Camacho.

"This is a monumental achievement in one's college career, and we are so glad to have been able to recognize and celebrate each and every one of you. Your dedication and hard work have earned you a well-deserved place in this prestigious honor society, and I look forward to witnessing your continuing success," Camacho added.

Additionally, Phi Theta Kappa recognized their golden opportunity scholars, Richard Baleares, Clark Jonas Cabang, Jefferson Roe Cunanan, Linson Bill Manahan, Clarissa King, as well as their honorary member, Mr. William Hunter, for his unwavering support, tireless effort, and dedicated service as an advisor for five consecutive years.

"The entire NMC Proa Tribe commends our newest PTK inductees for their extraordinary accomplishments. Being a member PTK goes beyond academic achievement, as this honor society calls for service above self. It is my hope that our PTK students serve as stewards both within our campus and around our community," said NMC President Galvin Deleon Guerrero, EdD.

Established by Missouri two-year college presidents in 1918, the PTK Honor Society serves to recognize and encourage the academic achievement of two-year college students and provide opportunities for individual growth and development through honors, leadership, and service programming.

Currently, PTK is the largest honor society in American higher education with more than 3.5 million members and 1,275 chapters located in fifty United States and territories as well as Canada and Germany. ***(NMC)***

Power service interruptions scheduled for Oct. 24, 31

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. would like to inform the general public that there will be scheduled power service interruptions as CUC continues its ongoing system maintenance. See additional information below:

Tuesday, Oct. 24, 2023
Power service interruption time: 9am-1pm

■ Area(s) Affected: Dandan (Sailing Dr.) (see attached map).

■ Water Wells Affected: None

■ Wastewater Facility Affected: None

■ Traffic Lights Affected: None

Purpose: To relocate primary power poles and primary power lines onto the right of way.

Tuesday, Oct. 31, 2023
Momentary outage time: 8:30am-9am and 3p-3:30pm

■ Area(s) Affected: Lower Base (CUC Power Plant- 1 & DFW). Puerto Rico (CPA Seaport, Saipan Shipping Co., Customs, Mobil, Shell Marianas, and partial of the U.S, Army Reserve), and Smiling Cove Marina (Marine Enforcement Facility) (see attached map).

■ Water Wells Affected: None

■ Wastewater Facility Affected: None

■ Traffic Light(s) Affected: None

Power service interruption time: 8:30am-3:30pm

■ Area(s) Affected: Smiling Cove Marina (Marine Enforcement Facility) (see attached map).

■ Water Wells Affected: None

■ Wastewater Facility Affected: None

■ Traffic Light(s) Affected: None

Purpose: To replace four 45-foot wood primary power poles to concrete poles.

CUC continues to work diligently to minimize any inconvenience to its customers. For more information, contact the CUC Customer Hotline (236-4333) or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates (https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/. ***(CUC)***

CUC

Map of the power service interruption on Oct. 24.

CUC

Map of the momentary power outage on Oct. 31.

CUC

Map of the power service interruption on Oct. 31.

Girl Scouts of the NMI looking for future Girl Scouts to join troop

The Girl Scouts of the NMI is announcing their open enrollment for the month of October. Don't be fooled, anyone interested can register any time to start participating in all the fun.

The fee per scout is $45 and the Girl Scouts of the NMI troop is #29001.

Please visit https://www.usagso.org/en/get-involved/join.html to sign up. Be sure to reference "Troop 29001" for Saipan. After registration, you will be added to the Girl Scouts WhatsApp chat group to stay on top of last-minute changes/updates.

Uniforms
Uniforms are not included with the registration fee. Scout uniform sashes cost approximately $10.50 plus starter pins and patches for $12. These items will be ordered as soon as registrations are confirmed. T-shirts are available at $15/shirt for both child and adult. T-shirts are limited!

Meetings
Meetings occur on the second and fourth Saturday of each month (except November and December). For cookie sales month, meetings occur weekly throughout March and into April.

GS Cookies
Each scout will sell cookies as a group and sales will be at various stores on the island on a weekly basis or until all the cookies are gone! Cookies are priced at $6 per box. Scouts will learn how to count money, give change, as well as practice their public speaking/sales and marketing skills.

Parent meeting/orientation
A parent orientation usually happens in late October so parents can be introduced to the leadership and the events planned for Nov-Dec-Jan-Feb-March. In late March, a planning session happens so Scouts can decide their activity/learning focus for the remainder of the Girl Scout year (April-September).

Meetings and activities
Meetings are usually "drop off" and parents are not expected to stay for Girl Scout activities. You are free to use this 60- to 90-minute time for yourself/errands/etc. You are also welcome to stay and be with your child.

This year, the Girl Scouts of the NMI will focus on life skills such as cooking, first aid, etc. and entrepreneurial skills. We hope to also engage in a community service project in April or May. Adult volunteers are welcomed! If you have a special skill or want to impart knowledge, we'd love to have you be a guest speaker.

Pay $5 for your registration with the code "YEAROFADVENTURE5" until Nov. 30.

Calling adult volunteers, this is your year of fulfillment
Think back to when you were a kid. Remember the people who really listened to you, who inspired you, and who helped support you through it all? When you volunteer with Girl Scouts, you are one of those people. Together, you and Troop 29001 will try new things, help our community, build each other up, and make unforgettable memories.

Through fun, laughter, and connection, you'll create a safe space where girls are celebrated for being themselves. This year, be a role model and mentor just by being yourself! You don't need to have a child of your own to get involved—you just need to be passionate about helping others. The Girl Scouts of the NMI is actively looking to fulfill the positions of co-chairperson, cookie manager, and recruiter.

Sign up online at https://mygs.girlscouts.org/volunteer or perhaps you do not want to commit for a full year, but are interested in helping the Girl Scouts achieve their goals? You can volunteer as an instructor or facilitator, sharing your knowledge and skills (cooking, sewing, hiking, financial literacy, etc.). The possibilities are endless.

If you have questions, feel free to send a message to (670) 989-7346, email nmigirlscouts@usagso.org or visit us on Facebook at Girl Scouts of the Northern Mariana Islands. ***(PR)***

UOG Press children's book series celebrates language and music

The University of Guam Press is launching the Kantan CHamoru Children's Books Series at 2:30pm Saturday, Nov. 4, at the Main Pavilion of the CHamoru Village in Hågatña.

"These books reintroduce long beloved songs to young readers, but they also introduce them to new musical voices who are carrying on the tradition," Kiana Brown, project manager, UOG Press.

The Kantan CHamoru Children's Book Series celebrates emerging voices and honors timeless songs from acclaimed local songwriters including Clotilde Castro Gould, master storyteller and Kåntan CHamorita singer; esteemed recording artist Johnny Sablan; and lifelong educator and advocate Dr. Bernadita Camacho-Dungca.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

I Anonsio-hu, written by Pedro Blas and illustrated by Mikaela Sablan, captures the vibrancy of the CHamoru culture through an illustrated version of his CHamoru reggae song, *I Anunsio-hu*.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

I Mambiha na Tiempo, written by Castro Gould and illustrated by Jerilyn Guerrero, brings back the popular tune that celebrates CHamoru elders and reminds youth to cherish time spent with them.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

I Wonder Where the Yellow Went, written by Desiree Taimanglo Ventura and illustrated by Lance Osborn, is a song of a little *lancheru* named Miget who helps to feed his family and village.

The series is a collection of four books that celebrate and promote CHamoru culture, values, and language among young readers. Each title is paired with stunning and vivid illustrations of the life and people on Guåhan.

I Anonsio-hu, written by Pedro Blas and illustrated by Mikaela Sablan captures the vibrancy of the CHamoru culture through an illustrated version of his CHamoru reggae song, *I Anunsio-hu*.

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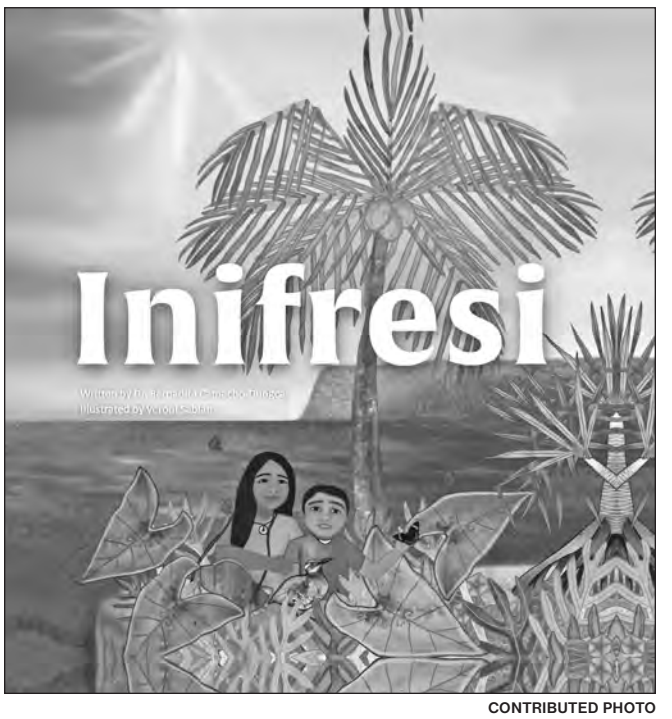
I Mambiha na Tiempo, written by Castro Gould and illustrated by Jerilyn Guerrero, brings back the popular tune that celebrates CHamoru elders and reminds youth to cherish time spent with them.

The series also brings Guåhan's beloved pledge to life in the *Inifresi*, written by Camacho-Dungca and illustrated by Veroni Sablan.

"The Kantan CHamoru book series celebrates the musical tradition in CHamoru culture," Brown said. "The lyrics in each poem or song reflect key values for the community, such as the importance of respecting elders, perpetuating cultural practices, and expressing pride in one's heritage."



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Guåhan's beloved pledge to life is celebrated in the *Inifresi*, written by Camacho-Dungca and illustrated by Veroni Sablan.

In partnership with Guam Green Growth, UOG Press will be hosting free activities for families and youths at the books' launch, including a traditional rope weaving demonstration and live musical performances of the books' songs.

The Katan CHamoru books series is available for a special pre-sale price of $12 in-store at UOG Press and online at uogpress.com. The books will be available at local bookstores after the launch.

For more information, contact Brown at brownk@triton.uog.edu or (671) 735-2153.

About University of Guam Press

The University of Guam Press publishes an array of academic and literary books and journals with a specific focus on the unique history, environment, peoples, cultures, and languages of the islands that make up the Western Pacific region. Visit uogpress.com to learn more about them and browse their wide selection of local art and literature. ***(UOG)***

Leon Guerrero is named dean of UOG's College of Natural and Applied Sciences

University of Guam president Anita Borja Enriquez has appointed Dr. Rachael Taitano Leon Guerrero as the dean of the College of Natural and Applied Sciences effective Nov. 1, 2023, following a nationwide search. Leon Guerrero has served as the vice provost, Office of Research & Sponsored Programs since January 2019.

Leon Guerrero

She becomes the first woman to serve as Dean of CNAS.

As vice provost, Leon Guerrero helped to establish UOG's growing reputation as a research institution centered on island wisdom. In academic year 2021-2022, UOG ranked in the top 43% nationwide for research and development expenditures, and research grant awards increased from $16.8 million in Fiscal Year 2018 to $26.1 million in FY 2022.

"Dr. Leon Guerrero has spent her 25-year career at UOG leading cancer research and other major partnerships and growing the University's support capacity of robust research and sponsored programs," said President Enriquez. "As Dean of CNAS, Dr. Leon Guerrero will continue UOG's Land-Grant mission of teaching, research, and community engagement and will continue to support and develop our recently earned Sea Grant status."

Leon Guerrero's career at UOG began in June 1998 when she accepted the position of assistant professor/nutrition specialist. In 2008, She was promoted to full professor in Consumer and Family Sciences. She served as associate dean/director of the Western Pacific Tropical Research Center in 2014 and subsequently became Vice Provost of Research & Sponsored Programs.

She is the principal investigator of the UOG Cancer Research Center, which was established in 2009 to address cancer health disparities in Pacific Islanders through a partnership between the University of Guam and the University of Hawaii Cancer Center.

Leon Guerrero earned a Master of Science in Human Nutrition from the University of Hawaii at Manoa in 1992 and a Bachelor of Arts in Biology from UOG in 1989. She earned a Doctor of Philosophy in Human Nutrition from Colorado State University in May 1998.

"I always knew I'd come back to Guam after graduating from UOG and leaving island to pursue my master's and doctorate," said Leon Guerrero. "It has been an honor to serve alongside my colleagues at UOG over the last 25 years, and I'm humbled to continue that service in this new role."

Dr. Lee Yudin, who has been dean of CNAS since 2002, will retire on Oct. 31. He will continue as interim dean of the School of Engineering until January 2024.

"On behalf of the University, we express our gratitude to dean Yudin for his dedication and leadership of UOG's land grant initiatives, partnerships through research and extension for the island and region, and the expansion of robust STEM majors and capacity for students in related programs," said Enriquez. ***(UOG)***

San Nicolas bill legalizing fireworks finally makes session agenda for October

GUAM—Democrat Sen. Dwayne T.D. San Nicolas, with the support of eight of his legislative colleagues, successfully got Bill 9-37 onto the regular session agenda for October, during session on Oct. 9, 2023, at the Guam Congress Building in Hagatna.

Bill 9-37 is an act to legalize and regulate the use of consumer-grade fireworks, introduced by Sen. San Nicolas in January 2023.

"I want to make Guam fun again," said Sen. San Nicolas, author of Bill 9-37, who's been waiting for a form of this bill to be introduced since he was 12 years old. "I want to bring back something from my childhood. I know children and everybody would love and enjoy this, as consumer-grade fireworks are already legal in Saipan in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands."

San Nicolas

Joining San Nicolas, the eight other senators who voted to place the bipartisan bill onto the regular session agenda are Speaker Therese M. Terlaje, Sens. Joe S. San Agustin, Roy A.B. Quinata, William Parkinson, Chris Barnett, Thomas Fisher, Jesse Lujan, and Christopher Duenas.

If passed into Guam law, this bill will allow the use of consumer-grade fireworks in Guam.

The 37th Guam Legislature finds that numerous statutes have been enacted to strictly regulate the importation, sale, purchase, and use of consumer fireworks.

Consumer-grade fireworks were once legal on the island where families bonded during the holidays to enhance gatherings.

This bill, if passed into Guam law, will also create avenues for the residents of the island to open businesses that will sell these fireworks, aiding and promoting economic development in Guam. Legalizing consumer-grade fireworks will create business opportunities for entrepreneurs to capitalize on the need to import and sell these fireworks, contributing to the island's economy.

Although there is concern for public safety and security with the use of consumer-grade fireworks, this will prevent illegal and dangerous practice of using firearms as a substitute for fireworks.

Additionally, minors shall only be allowed to ignite or set offconsumer fireworks under expressed permission and immediate supervision and control of parents, guardians, or a supervising adult.

San Nicolas' bipartisan bill is co-sponsored by Speaker Terlaje, Vice Speaker Tina Muna Barnes, Sens. San Agustin, Quinata, Parkinson, Lujan, and Fisher. ***(PR)***

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

Mark Rabago EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Sidney Powell tells the truth

Like most Americans, we were introduced to lawyer Sidney Powell on Nov. 19, 2020, almost two weeks after it was clear that Joe Biden had decisively beaten President Donald Trump in the 2020 election. Powell showed up at a Trump campaign press conference at RNC headquarters in Washington along with Rudy Giuliani and another lawyer, Jenna Ellis.

This was Rudy's second infamous post-election press conference. The first was at Philly's Four Seasons Total Landscaping on Nov. 7, which occurred just as the Associated Press and the TV networks all projected Biden's victory.

You remember, this press conference is where Rudy's brown hair dye dripped down both sides of his face as he and Powell and Ellis spun lies and craziness about Hugo Chavez and stolen votes. All three of them would later be indicted in the Georgia state election interference case. Powell would also become Co-Conspirator 3 in Special Counsel Jack Smith's federal election interference case filed in Washington.

On Tuesday, Powell was still on social media claiming that the 2020 presidential vote was crooked. On Wednesday, an Atlanta judge rejected her final efforts to toss out the seven state felony charges against her for election interference on two specious grounds: one that it was a federal election and should not be handled in state court and the other was her First Amendment right to free speech. Her trial was set to begin on Monday.

No way, wrote Judge Scott McAfee Wednesday afternoon, the charges stood. The next morning, yesterday, Powell had a change of heart and pleaded guilty in open court before McAfee to six misdemeanors and promised to cooperate.

This is good for Powell, who will serve no prison time and is eligible under Georgia law to even have her conviction expunged at some point in the future. It's also good for prosecutor Fani Willis, who can rely on Powell to rat out the others in the case, including Trump.

And Powell has dirt on Trump. Smith described her as "an attorney whose unfounded claims of election fraud [Trump] privately acknowledged to others sounded "crazy." Nonetheless, [Trump] embraced and publicly amplified Co-Conspirator 3's disinformation."

Powell was at the Dec. 18, 2020 Oval Office meeting where there was a plot discussed to use the power of the federal government to seize voting machines in states that Trump narrowly lost, like Georgia. The cabal, which included disgraced National Security Adviser Mike Flynn, went on for hours and continued in the White House residence.

Powell has first-hand knowledge of this, as it was her plan. Hopefully, she will be cooperating with Jack Smith as well.

The conspiracy of the sitting president to stay in office by canceling the election that he lost was very real and it exploded in its final act, the Jan. 6 sacking of the Capitol. Powell was there for much of it and can offer prosecutors the insider view.

Trump assumed that all his stooges would remain blindly loyal to him and refuse to testify against him. Powell has proven him very wrong. Is she crazy, as he thought? Prob-

See SIDNEY on Page 9

What Israel will have to do in Gaza after the bombing stops

By RAPHAEL S. COHEN
Los Angeles Times

Raphael S. Cohen is the director of the Strategy and Doctrine Program, Project Air Force, at the Rand Corp. and the lead author of From Cast Lead to Protective Edge: Lessons from Israel's Wars in Gaza.

The phrase "mowing the grass" has been the bumper sticker version of Israeli strategy in Gaza for the last decade and a half.

It plays out in the following way: Palestinians, frustrated by the state of the enclave, turn to the likes of Hamas for, if nothing else, vengeance against Israel; Israel imposes restrictions such as the blockade on Gaza, citing security concerns; living conditions in Gaza deteriorate further, and discontent builds; Hamas, Palestinian Islamic Jihad and others capitalize on the discontent and attack Israel; and Israel responds by "mowing the grass" — killing the perpetrators along with some number of civilians, buying at best a few years of relative peace and fueling further long-term radicalization. And so the cycle continues ad infinitum.

"Mowing the grass" embodies more than just strategic fatalism; it also reflects a large measure of hubris. At its core lies the assumption that Israel can control the rheostat in Gaza, hitting Hamas just hard enough to deter it from attacking Israel but not so hard that Gaza implodes into chaos or explodes into a regional war. As one Israeli defense analyst said of the 2014 Gaza war, "We want to break their bones without putting them in the hospital."

> We want to break their bones without putting them in the hospital.

That is a hard if not impossible balance to strike year after year, especially as Gaza's internal pressures mount. Its 2 million inhabitants are packed into an area roughly the size of Philadelphia, 80% of them impoverished and 46% unemployed. Some 108,000 cubic meters of untreated sewage flow daily from the Gaza Strip into the Mediterranean Sea, and potable water can be hard to come by.

Against this backdrop and absent any path to something better for Gazans, no military strategy to contain the violence can succeed in the long run. Without a safety valve, Gaza was bound to explode.

Israel's mowing-the-grass strategy finally failed spectacularly on Oct. 7. The Hamas attack underscored just how little control Israel has over Gaza. It was not just an intelligence failure and an operational failure but also a more sweeping strategic failure. The core premise behind Israel's entire approach was proved catastrophically wrong in one morning.

Whether Israel has internalized this strategic failure remains a separate, open question. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has promised "to restore deterrence" to Israel's borders, and the country is mobilizing some 360,000 reservists, functionally tripling the Israel Defense Forces. This all points to a doubling down: more mowing of the grass.

From a purely military perspective, Israel's hardest days are likely ahead. Hamas' extensive tunnel network underneath Gaza and threat to execute scores of hostages makes a large-scale ground invasion likely. The last time Israel fought a ground war in Gaza, in 2014, it lasted 50 days, flattened large swaths of the strip and left more than 70 Israelis and 2,000 Palestinians dead. The current Gaza war's toll has already surpassed that in just a few days, and any ground incursion has yet to begin.

But once all the killing is done, Israel will have to do something even harder if it's to have any hope of preventing the next war and the one after that: It will need to rebuild Gaza into something better than it was. That means ensuring Gaza's inhabitants have a chance at economic prosperity, potentially even at the risk of loosening the blockade. That means ensuring Gaza's inhabitants have political options apart from Hamas and the corrupt and pliant Palestinian Authority. And it means rebuilding the social fabric of Gaza, which will likely be even more tattered after what could be a devastating war that could leave the enclave that much more hostile to Israel.

That is not only a costly proposition of the sort that militaries are not particularly adept at. It would also be difficult for the Israeli public to stomach, particularly given the size and scale of Hamas' recent atrocities.

It is nevertheless what's necessary to end the cycle of mowing the grass only to watch it grow back.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

A month of pink and progress: Empowering breast cancer survivors through awareness and employment right

By CLEO NENING
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Cleo Nening is a programs coordinator at the Northern Marianas Protection and Advocacy Systems Inc.

October, the season of falling leaves and the aroma of pumpkin spice, carries a profound significance that touches the hearts of millions worldwide. Beyond the cozy autumn imagery, it is the universally recognized Breast Cancer Awareness Month. During this sacred time, people, communities, and organizations worldwide unite not just to decorate in pink but to raise their voices for breast cancer awareness and champion early detection and treatment. Yet, as we traverse the years of awareness campaigns centered around treatment and prevention, an inspiring and transformative shift has emerged—one that opens doors to employment and ushers in a new chapter in the fight against breast cancer. It's a chapter that revolves around the laws and rights designed to protect those battling this formidable disease, emphasizing the need for accommodation, support from employers and employees alike, and an education that empowers all.

Breast Cancer Awareness Month, symbolized by the iconic pink ribbon, isn't just a symbol; it's a testament to the immense progress made in understanding, diagnosing, and treating breast cancer. It's a reminder of the profound significance of regular screenings and self-exams, a call to action that underlines how early detection can mean the difference between life and loss. Beyond the sea of pink ribbons, the conversation has broadened, and its embrace now includes the multifaceted challenges that breast cancer survivors grapple with, particularly when it comes to their rights in the workplace.

A cancer diagnosis is more than a health challenge; it is a seismic shift that affects every facet of a person's life, including their livelihood. This is where a profound transformation is occurring. Many countries have acknowledged the unique challenges that cancer patients, including those brave breast cancer survivors, face. They have implemented laws and regulations to safeguard employment rights. These protections extend well beyond pink ribbons:

1. Anti-Discrimination Laws: The Americans with Disabilities Act in the United States and the Equality Act in the United Kingdom are not just legal texts; they're a shield against discrimination, making it illegal to treat employees unfairly because of disabilities, including cancer.

2. Reasonable Accommodations: Employers are not just obligated; they are morally inclined to provide reasonable accommodations to support employees during and after cancer treatment. These accommodations might involve flexible work hours, modified duties, or essential time off for medical appointments.

3. Family and Medical Leave: Many countries offer a lifeline in the form of job-protected leave. The Family and Medical Leave Act in the United States is not just legislation; it's a sanctuary, allowing eligible employees to take unpaid leave for medical reasons, including cancer treatment.

4. Health Insurance Protections: Laws like the Affordable Care Act in the United States aren't just words on paper; they're the guardians of health, protecting cancer survivors from being denied health insurance coverage or charged exorbitant premiums due to their pre-existing condition.

5. Social Support: Various support networks and non-profit organizations aren't just organizations; they are lifelines. They offer guidance and a compassionate hand to individuals navigating their employment rights during and after cancer treatment.

But the transformation doesn't stop with laws and regulations. It extends to the hearts of employers and employees, and it transcends the boundaries of the legal system.

Apart from legal safeguards, empowering breast cancer survivors in the workplace is about creating a supportive and understanding environment. It's about real, heartfelt commitment. Employers can play a pivotal role by:

■ Educating Employees: It's not just about rules and regulations; it's about enlightening coworkers about the challenges faced by cancer survivors. It's about reducing stigma and fostering empathy in the workplace.

■ Flexible Work Arrangements: Flexible work hours, remote work, and part-time schedules aren't just options; they are a lifeline, helping survivors to juggle their professional responsibilities and health needs, to find the balance that works for them.

■ Mental Health Support: It's not just a benefit; it's a lifeline. Cancer survivors often grapple with emotional challenges. Access to counseling services or support groups isn't just a service; it's a healing hand that guides survivors through the emotional storm.

■ Promoting Work-Life Balance: Encouraging a healthy work-life balance isn't just an organizational goal; it's a gesture that says, "We care." It alleviates stress and enhances the overall well-being of cancer survivors, reinforcing the notion that they are not alone in this journey.

Breast Cancer Awareness Month is not just about wearing pink; it's about thinking beyond the color, beyond the ribbons. It's a celebration of the remarkable resilience and strength of survivors. It's about the progress we've made in understanding and supporting those affected by breast cancer. And now, as we champion employment rights and protections, we take a giant stride toward creating inclusive workplaces where survivors can not just survive but thrive. As we raise our voices, let's also advocate for policies and practices that respect the dignity and rights of every individual. This journey, though marked by challenges, is also one of empowerment and unwavering support, where humanity shines its brightest.

For more information on employment laws and rights protections, please call us at (670) 235-7273/4 or visit us online at www.nmpasi.org. If you would like to visit our office, we are located on the fifth floor, Room 505 at the Marianas Business Plaza.

There is no such thing as 'good people on both sides' when it comes to terrorism

By BOB MORGAN
Chicago Tribune

State Rep. Bob Morgan represents Illinois' 58th District. He is co-chair of the Illinois Legislative Jewish Caucus.

I'm a state legislator, and foreign affairs are not typically my focus. More often, I work to increase health care access, reform our gun laws and reduce our pension debt. But Hamas' Oct. 7 terrorist attack against Israel irrevocably changed everything—including leading me to speak out in response to my friends in the progressive circles I usually inhabit.

A conflict more than 6,000 miles away seems complicated or like it's someone else's problem. But there's a simple point people have missed. There is no such thing as "good people on both sides" when it comes to terrorism.

As a child, I experienced antisemitism and violence solely because I was Jewish. My great-grandparents were killed during the Holocaust because they were Jewish. Because of this history I have always been acutely aware that there will be those who hate me solely because I am Jewish, and those who are also capable of targeting me with violence because of this hate. This is just one of the reasons why the Jewish state of Israel is so important to me and so many Jews around the world.

I came to more personally understand terrorism at the same time as much of this country when al-Qaida attacked the United States on 9/11. In fact, it was my Israeli friends who were the first to reach out to me to check on my safety on 9/11, having no comprehension that New York City was far from Illinois. In tiny Israel (about the size of New Jersey), terror attacks are never far from home.

After 9/11, there was a tremendous rise in hate and Islamophobia. Americans of good conscience condemned it because hate has terrible consequences. We saw it this past week when a 6-year-old Palestinian boy was killed in our state. I hope people everywhere join me and others condemning the hatred and evil that ended that boy's life because hate speech is as dangerous as silence against terrorism. If wrongdoing is not called out, it spreads.

On Oct. 7, our country woke up to the horrific images of unfolding chaos unleashed on the Israeli people by Hamas, a terrorist organization that controls Gaza. At least 1,400 Israelis and others, including Americans, were killed. That is a number so terrifying and overwhelming that my mind cannot process it.

For anyone still unconvinced as to whether Hamas wishes to destroy the entire Jewish state of Israel and Jews anywhere they live, the terrorists' acts of inhumanity should prove otherwise. A granddaughter watched as her grandmother was killed and filmed by a Hamas terrorist, CBS News reported. Hamas terrorists later posted the video to the grandmother's Facebook page for all to see.

A new mother and father were forced to hide their infant twins in a shelter as they battled Hamas terrorists in their kibbutz, CBS News reported. The parents' bodies were found, and the hidden twins were recovered after hours of hiding alone.

Two teenagers ages 12 and 16 were abducted and forced to call their mother so she could listen as they pleaded with the terrorists for their lives, ABC News reported. The last words she heard from one of her children was, "Don't take me. I'm too young."

Israelis are experiencing unimaginable and inhumane attacks. There is only one appropriate response: unequivocal and universal condemnation of these acts of terrorism by Hamas. There is no room for whataboutism or any sentiment of "both sides" when it comes to terrorism. And yet, too many leaders in our state and country have failed to meet this moment. Even worse, some have gathered to celebrate the killings and cheer on Hamas in the false narrative of liberation or human rights.

This is an opportunity to learn and to remember that if we can condemn terrorism in the United States, we should be able to do the same when it applies to Israel. Anything different reveals a deep-seated vein of antisemitism that has permeated our public discourse for far too long.

It is no accident that Israel is our closest ally in the Middle East and one of our closest in the world. It always stands with us when we need it the most, and we must do the same in the days ahead and beyond. Israel is far from perfect, and I continue to be a vocal critic of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government. But Israel has the right to exist and the right to defend herself. Anyone unwilling or unable to acknowledge that is declaring there should be no Jewish state in the world.

We must have the capacity and compassion to condemn wrongdoing at any time. It pains me that some of my friends and colleagues fail to understand this most basic point, but today every single American should be able to loudly and unequivocally say: "I condemn the deaths of over 1,400 Israeli citizens and others at the hands of Hamas terrorists."

If your neighbor, elected official or local activist organization cannot speak that truth, they are excusing terrorism, full stop.

"Am Yisrael Chai": The people of Israel live.

SIDNEY

From page 8

ably, but she still likely has the goods on his crimes to defraud the American people and democracy itself.

Trump can lead his rivals in the polls for the GOP nomination, but he can't outrun the law.

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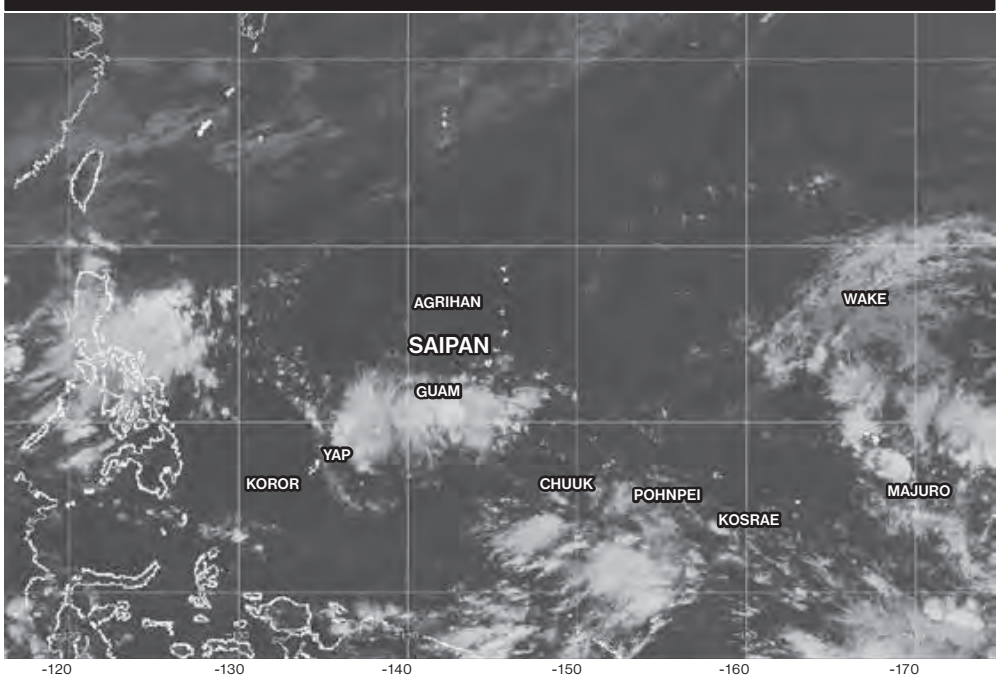
The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers.	Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers.	Mostly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms.
89 / 79°	89 / 79°	89 / 79°	89 / 79°	87 / 78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 7:11 AM, MONDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2023

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Scattered showers are moving through the Guam Coastal Waters, with just isolated showers moving through the CNMI Waters. The buoys reveal a 5 to 7 foot east-northeast trade-wind swell, with the wind waves not having much of an effect, so that`s also the combined seas.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: https://www.weather.gov/gum/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	85° / 78°
Palau	Partly Cloudy	84° / 77°
Yap	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	87° / 79°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	87° / 75°
Kosrae	Partly Cloudy	87° / 75°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	87° / 80°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:10 AM	5:51 PM
Wednesday	6:10 AM	5:52 PM
Thursday	6:11 AM	5:50 PM
Friday	6:11 AM	5:50 PM
Saturday	6:11 AM	5:49 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	1:21 AM	2:32 PM
Wednesday	-	2:22 AM	3:16 PM
Thursday	-	3:21 AM	3:58 PM
Friday	-	4:18 AM	4:39 PM
Saturday	-	5:15 AM	5:21 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Cloudy	64° / 57°
Beijing	Fair	74° / 42°
Hong Kong	Fair	81° / 74°
Honolulu	Showers	85° / 73°
London	Showers	63° / 54°
Los Angeles	Cloudy	75° / 58°
Manila	Partly Cloudy	91° / 79°
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	81° / 64°
Miami	Thunderstorms	86° / 80°
New York	Showers	63° / 59°
Osaka	Mostly Cloudy	73° / 61°
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	64° / 52°
Busan	Partly Cloudy	66° / 48°
Rome	Showers	73° / 59°
Salem	Showers	72° / 67°
San Francisco	Sunny	67° / 48°
Seoul	Sunny	64° / 45°
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	70° / 59°
Washington, DC	Mostly Cloudy	67° / 54°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
1:57 AM	High Tide	1.49
9:27 AM	Low Tide	0.08
4:52 PM	High Tide	1.86
10:51 PM	Low Tide	0.97

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF OCTOBER 8, 2023

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	9:50AM	10:30AM	Daily

SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)

UA824	7:25AM	9:55AM	1, 3, 5

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	Daily
UA193	6:55PM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Palau
UA183	7:20PM	9:10PM	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/703	4:20AM	10:35PM	1, 4, 5, 7
7C3403/2305	4:45AM	10:20PM	Daily
UA117/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam
UA117/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	Daily
OZ626	4:20AM	7:55AM	1, 4, 5, 7
7C3403	4:45AM	8:35AM	Daily
7C3405	4:10PM	7:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:20AM	6:30AM	1, 4, 5, 7

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	8:00AM	8:50AM	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

UA825	9:25PM	1:50AM+1	2, 4, 7

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

UA184	10:25PM	4:25AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA192	10:25PM	6:10AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
PR110	10:30PM	4:25AM+1	Daily
UA184	11:50PM	5:50AM+1	2, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ702/625	12:05PM	2:55AM+1	3, 4, 6, 7
UA184/174	10:25PM	8:50AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6,7 via Guam
UA192/174	10:25PM	8:50AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
7C2306/3406	11:10PM	3:10PM+1	Daily
UA184/174	11:50PM	8:50AM+1	2, 5 via Guam

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3406	9:30AM	3:10PM	Daily
TW307	8:30PM	2:15AM+1	Daily
OZ625	9:25PM	2:55AM+1	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3404	10:10PM	3:40AM+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:35PM	2:20AM+1	3, 4, 6, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2022

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30	9:00	Daily
1302	11:00	11:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
1302	12:00	12:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun
1303	15:30	16:00	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	13:00	13:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun
3102	14:00	14:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
3103	16:30	17:00	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

LIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	12:00	12:30	Mon/Wed/Fri

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	13:00	13:30	Mon/Wed/Fri

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Daily

Business

Docomo Pacific partners with Toys for Tots this holiday season

TAMUNING, Guam—Docomo Pacific, the regional leader in innovation, telecommunications, and entertainment, partners with Toys for Tots this holiday season to spread joy and hope for our island's children.

U.S. Marine Corps Base Camp Blaz is proud to announce the start of the 14th Toys for Tots campaign in Guam and seventh in the CNMI. This campaign's goal each holiday season is to provide the gift of a new toy for a child in need. Last year, 11,075 toys were distributed throughout the islands of Guam, Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

Docomo Pacific is here to help support this fantastic community activity this year by offering its Tamuning HQ and Micronesia Mall store locations as toy drop-off locations. Docomo Pacific's CNMI drop-off location will open in the coming weeks. To participate and donate to Toys for Tots, bring a newly purchased, unwrapped toy to one of our locations from now through Dec. 4, 2023.

DOCOMO PACIFIC

From left, Connie Cruz, director of Operations, Enterprise Business Unit, Docomo Pacific; Jared Roberto, Public Relations manager, Docomo Pacific; Roderick Boss, chief executive officer, Docomo Pacific; Lance Cpl. Garrett Gillespie, U.S. Marine Corps Base Camp Blaz representative; Tito Castro, executive vice president, Docomo Pacific; Eloisa Hudson, director of Marketing, Enterprise Business Unit, Docomo Pacific; and Bria Manglona, Business Service representative, Docomo Pacific.

DOCOMO PACIFIC

From left, Lisa Salisbury, Media manager, Docomo Pacific; Taylor Crisostomo, People Operations Business partner, Docomo Pacific; Francene Paulino, chief of People Operations, Docomo Pacific; Renee Cepeda, Retail Sales cashier, Docomo Pacific; Lance Cpl. Garrett Gillespie, U.S. Marine Corps Base Camp Blaz representative; Cristina Abad, Retail Store manager, Micronesia Mall, Docomo Pacific; Veena Maravilla, Retail Sales cashier, Docomo Pacific; Mxoe Ramos, Retail Store supervisor, Docomo Pacific; and Joshua Montevirgen, TechZone representative, DOCOMO Docomo Pacific.

To learn more about the Toys for Tots campaign and how you can help children in need, visit their website at https://www.toysfortots.org/ or contact Gunnery Sgt. Rubin Tan at (671) 362-7375 or email rubin.tan@usmc.mil.

Docomo Pacific is a wholly owned subsidiary of NTT Docomo, Japan's leading mobile operator. Headquartered in Tamuning, Guam, Docomo Pacific is the largest provider of personal, residential, enterprise connectivity and entertainment services in Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands. Docomo Pacific is the seven-time winner of Best of The Pacific. Docomo Pacific is dedicated to bringing you and your family closer to the things that matter most. Get to know more about what makes us "Better Together" at www.docomopacific.com. ***(PR)***

China crackdown on cyber scams in Southeast Asia nets thousands

BANGKOK (AP)—Zhang Hongliang, a former restaurant manager in central China, took various gigs in and outside China to support his family after losing his job during the COVID-19 pandemic.

In March, a job offer to teach Chinese cooking at a restaurant led him into a cyber scam compound in Myanmar, where he was instead ordered to lure Chinese into giving up their savings for fake investment schemes via social media platforms.

Zhang is one of tens of thousands of people, mostly but not all Chinese, who have become ensnared in cyber scam networks run by powerful Chinese criminal syndicates in Southeast Asia. Regional and Chinese authorities have netted thousands of people in a crackdown, but experts say they are failing to root out the local elites and criminal networks that are bound to keep running the schemes.

When scam operations are shut down in one place they often just resurface elsewhere. The problem is an embarrassment for Beijing and is discouraging ordinary Chinese from traveling to Southeast Asia out of fear they might be duped or kidnapped and caught up in a cyber scam operation.

In recent years, media reports have uncovered instances of young people being lured to places in Cambodia or Myanmar for high-paying jobs, only to be forced to work as scammers. Rescue organizations say people are regularly beaten or face physical punishments such as being forced to run laps if they don't perform well.

In August, China, Thailand, Laos and Myanmar agreed to set up a joint police operations center to tackle cyber scams in the region. On Oct. 10, China's Ministry of Public Security announced that its "Summer Operation" had successfully brought back 2,317 scam suspects from northern Myanmar to China.

Deal to force multinational companies to pay 15% minimum tax marred by loopholes, watchdog says

WASHINGTON (AP)—An ambitious 2021 agreement by more than 140 countries and territories to weed out tax havens and force multinational corporations to pay a minimum tax has been weakened by loopholes and will raise only a fraction of the revenue that was envisioned, a tax watchdog backed by the European Union has warned.

The landmark agreement, brokered by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, set a minimum global corporate tax of 15%. The idea was to stop multinational corporations, among them Apple and Nike, from using accounting and legal maneuvers to shift earnings to low- or no-tax havens.

Those havens are typically places like Bermuda and the Cayman Islands where the companies actually do little or no business. The companies' maneuvers result in lost tax revenue of $100 billion to $240 billion a year, the OECD has said.

According to the report, being released Monday by the EU Tax Observatory, the agreement was expected to raise an amount equal to nearly 10% of global corporate tax revenue. Instead, because the plan has been weakened, it says the minimum tax will generate only half that—less than 5% of corporate tax revenue.

Much of the hoped-for revenue has been drained away by loopholes, some of them introduced as the OECD has been refining details of the agreement, which has yet to take effect. The watchdog group estimates that a 15% minimum tax could have raised roughly $270 billion in 2023. With the loopholes, it says, that figure drops to about $136 billion.

Over the summer, the OECD agreed to delay for at least a year—until 2026—a provision that would have let foreign countries impose additional taxes on U.S. multinational companies that failed to pay at least a 15% rate on their overseas earnings.

The EU Tax Observatory noted that even under the rules of the 2021 agreement, companies would maintain some ability to evade taxes. Companies that have tangible businesses—factories, warehouses, stores and offices—operating in a particular country, for example, could continue to pay a tax rate below 15%. That carveout, the EU Tax Observatory warned, could "give firms incentives to move production to countries with tax rates below 15%."

"This risks exacerbating the race-to-the-bottom with corporate income tax rates," it said.

Another loophole lets countries offer tax credits, for such things as conducting research and investing in local factories, that can reduce companies' tax rates below the 15% mark and still comply with the 2021 agreement.

The Tax Observatory also expressed concern that the race by governments to grant tax breaks for green technologies to fight climate change "raises some of the same issues as standard tax competition. It depletes government revenues."

Nation

Biden walks tightrope with support for Israel as party's left urges restraint

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Joe Biden told a crowd of Democratic donors over the weekend about a decades-old photo he took with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, an aside that seemed intended to illustrate his long support of Israel and track record of speaking bluntly with the conservative Israeli leader.

Biden said he'd written on the photo of himself as a young senator and Netanyahu as an embassy hand, "Bibi, I love you. I don't agree with a damn thing you say.'" He told donors at a Friday night fundraiser that Netanyahu still keeps the photo on his desk and had brought it up during Biden's lightning visit to Tel Aviv last week.

As expectations grow that Israel will soon launch a ground offensive aimed at rooting out Hamas militants who rule the Gaza Strip, Biden finds himself facing anew the difficult balancing act of demonstrating full-throated support for America's closest ally in the Middle East while trying to also press the Israelis to act with enough restraint to keep the war from spreading into a broader conflagration.

Biden has literally, and figuratively, wrapped Netanyahu in a warm embrace since the Oct. 7 attacks by Hamas. He's repeatedly promised to have Israel's back as it aims to take out the militant group that controls the Gaza Strip and carried out the brutal attacks that killed 1,400 Israelis and captured more than 200 others.

But he also increasingly is paying greater public heed to the plight of Palestinians and the potential consequences of a hardline Israeli response.

White House officials say Biden, during his visit to Tel Aviv last week, asked Netanyahu "tough" questions about his strategy and the way forward. Biden himself told reporters on his way back from Israel that he had a "long talk" with Israeli officials "about what the alternatives are" to a possible extended ground operation. U.S. defense officials were also consulting with Israel on the matter.

AP

President Joe Biden is greeted by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu after arriving at Ben Gurion International Airport, Wednesday, Oct. 18, 2023, in Tel Aviv.

"We're going to make sure other hostile actors in the region know that Israel is stronger than ever and prevent this conflict from spreading," Biden said Thursday in a nationally televised address on assisting Israel and Ukraine in their wars. "At the same time ... Netanyahu and I discussed again yesterday the critical need for Israel to operate by the laws of war. That means protecting civilians in combat as best as they can."

Both Secretary of State Antony Blinken and the executive director of United Nations' World Food Program, Cindy McCain, offered grim warnings Sunday that the situation on the ground is only becoming more complicated.

Blinken on NBC's "Meet the Press" warned "there's a likelihood of escalation" against U.S. forces stationed in the region by Iranian proxies. Iran is the biggest financial backer of Hamas, Hezbollah militants in Lebanon and Shiite militias in Iraq.

McCain said on ABC's "This Week" that the humanitarian situation her organization is confronting in Gaza is "catastrophic."

As well, Biden and Pope Francis spoke on the phone for about 20 minutes Sunday, addressing the need to "pinpoint paths of peace" in world conflicts, the Vatican press office said in a brief statement.

The pressure on Biden for a balanced approach comes from Arab leaders in Egypt, Iraq, Jordan and beyond who have seen large protests erupt in their capitals over the crisis in Gaza. It also comes from European officials, who have expressed horror at the most brutal attack on Israeli soil in decades, but also underscored that the Israelis must abide by international and humanitarian law. Biden also faces scrutiny from people in the younger and more liberal wing of his Democratic Party, who are more divided over the Israel-Palestinian issue than the party's centrist and older leaders.

Less than week into the war, dozens of lawmakers wrote to Biden and Blinken urging them to ensure the protection of Israeli and Palestinian civilians by calling for Israeli military operations to follow the rules of international humanitarian law, the safe return of hostages, and diplomatic efforts to ensure long-lasting peace. That was followed by more than a dozen lawmakers introducing a resolution urging the Biden administration to call for an immediate de-escalation and ceasefire.

Three members of the Democratic caucus—Reps. Delia Ramirez of Illinois, Summer Lee of Pennsylvania and Rashida Tlaib of Michigan—wrote to Blinken last week about the "lack of meaningful information" about the status of U.S. civilians, particularly those in Gaza and the West Bank. The administration has said some 500 to 600 U.S. citizens may be in Gaza.

Rep. Ilhan Omar, D-Minn., has suggested that the administration has demonstrated a double standard when it comes to valuing the lives of innocent Israelis and Gaza residents. Israel's retaliatory bombing campaign has killed more than 4,300 Palestinians, according to the Hamas-run Health Ministry. Many of the victims are women and children.

Menendez returns to NY court to enter plea to new conspiracy charge

NEW YORK (AP)—U.S. Sen. Bob Menendez returns to court Monday to enter an expected not guilty plea to a conspiracy charge alleging that he acted as an agent of the Egyptian government even as he chaired the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

Menendez, 69, was scheduled to appear in the afternoon before Judge Sidney H. Stein at federal court in Manhattan.

The Democrat stepped down from his powerful post leading the Senate committee after he was charged last month. Prosecutors said the senator and his wife, Nadine Menendez, accepted bribes of cash, gold bars and a luxury car over the past five years from three New Jersey businessmen in exchange for a variety of corrupt acts.

The other defendants entered not guilty charges to a superseding indictment last week. The senator was permitted to delay his arraignment so he could tend to Senate duties. He has said that throughout his whole life he has been loyal to the United States and that he will show his innocence.

Menendez has resisted calls from more than 30 Democrats that he resign.

The rewritten indictment added a charge alleging that the senator, his wife and one of the businessmen conspired to have Menendez act as an agent of the government of Egypt and Egyptian officials.

As a member of Congress, Menendez is prohibited from acting as an agent for a foreign government.

Menendez is accused of passing information to the Egyptians about the staff at the U.S. embassy in Cairo, ghostwriting a letter on Egypt's behalf intended to influence fellow senators and urging the U.S. State Department to get more involved in international negotiations to block a dam project Egypt opposed, among other things.

Last week, Nadine Menendez and a businessman, Wael Hana, pleaded not guilty to the superseding indictment.

Both of them were charged with conspiring with the senator to use him as an agent of the government of Egypt and its officials. The charge carries a potential penalty of up to five years in prison.

ACROSS THE NATION

Man accused of killing 15-year-old was beaten by teen's family during melee in Texas courtroom

SAN ANTONIO (AP)—A man accused of fatally shooting a 15-year-old last year was beaten by members of the teen's family during a courtroom melee in San Antonio, authorities said. Victor Rivas, 18, who is charged with murder in the May 2022 death of Ethan Soto, was in a Bexar County courtroom Friday awaiting a preliminary hearing when he was attacked. Rivas' attorney, Adam LaHood, said his client was "going to be bruised and swollen" but was not otherwise injured. Four people—two men and two juveniles—were arrested and will be charged with assault and disrupting court proceedings, the Bexar County sheriff's office said. Their names haven't been released. Last week in Houston, a brawl broke out during a Harris County court hearing when family members of a murdered 16-year-old girl tried to attack her ex-boyfriend after he'd pleaded guilty to shooting her.

No evidence of hate crime, police say as slain Detroit synagogue president mourned as devoted leader

A Detroit synagogue president who was fatally stabbed at her home was remembered Sunday by family, friends and top Michigan officials as a generous, thoughtful leader who built bridges between communities. As mourners gathered to pay respects to Samantha Woll, police said their ongoing investigation of her killing found no evidence of antisemitism as a motive. The 40-year-old Woll, or "Sam" as she was known to friends and family, led the Isaac Agree Downtown Synagogue, and was a campaign staffer for Attorney General Dana Nessel and former aide to Democratic Rep. Elissa Slotkin. "You so deeply wanted peace for this world. You fought for everyone regardless of who they were or where they came from," said Monica Woll Rosen, directly addressing her late sister before mourners at the Jewish funeral home. "You were the definition of a leader. Our world is shattered without you."

Michigan State suspends employee involved with allowing Hitler's image to be shown on videoboards

EAST LANSING, Mich. (AP)—Michigan State athletic director Alan Haller said he has suspended an employee involved in allowing Adolf Hitler's image to be shown on videoboards before playing No. 2 Michigan. The employee, who was not named, will be paid pending an investigation that will help to determine potential action in the future. Haller said no one in the department viewed the entire video, exposing a failure in its process. "Antisemitism must be denounced," Haller said in a statement Sunday Night. "The image displayed prior to Saturday night's game is not representative of who we are and the culture we embody. Nevertheless, we must own our failures and accept responsibility. The creator and producer of The Quiz Channel on YouTube, which includes Hitler's image as part of a quiz, said the school didn't ask for permission to use his content or pay him for it and defended his decision to include the question on his platform.

Asia

ASIAN BRIEFS

PH says coast guard ship and supply boat rammed by Chinese vessels at disputed shoal

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A Chinese coast guard ship and an accompanying vessel rammed a Philippine coast guard ship and a military-run supply boat Sunday off a contested shoal, Philippine officials said, in an encounter that heightened fears of an armed conflict in the disputed South China Sea. A top Philippine security official told The Associated Press there were no injuries among the Filipino crew members and the damage to both vessels was being assessed. The official said that the two incidents near Second Thomas Shoal, where China has repeatedly tried to isolate a Philippine marine outpost, could have been worse if the vessels were not able to maneuver rapidly away from the Chinese ships. The official spoke on condition of anonymity due to a lack of authority to publicly discuss the matter. China's sweeping territorial claims in the South China Sea, including over islands closer to the Philippine shore, have raised tensions and brought the United States, a longtime treaty ally of the Philippines, into the fray. The U.S. ambassador to Manila, MaryKay Carlson, wrote on the X social media platform that "the United States condemns the PRC's latest disruption of a legal Philippine resupply mission to Ayungin shoal, putting the lives of Filipino service members at risk." She used the initials for China's formal name, the People's Republic of China, and the name the Philippines uses for Second Thomas Shoal. She added that Washington was standing with its allies to help protect Philippine sovereignty and to support a free and open Indo-Pacific region.

The Chinese coast guard said the Philippine vessels "trespassed" into what it said were Chinese waters "without authorization" despite repeated radio warnings, prompting its ships to stop them. It blamed the Philippine vessels for causing the collisions.

Pakistan's self-exiled ex-PM Nawaz Sharif returns home ahead of parliamentary vote

ISLAMABAD (AP)—Pakistan's former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif arrived home Saturday on a chartered plane from Dubai, ending four years of self-imposed exile in London as he seeks to rally supporters ahead of parliamentary elections due in January. Sharif, who was elected prime minister three times, is expected to face tough competition from the party of the former premier and his main rival, Imran Khan. Khan was ousted in a no-confidence vote in April 2022 and is imprisoned after a court convicted and sentenced him to three years in a graft case. Sharif has been a fugitive since he failed to appear before a Pakistani court in 2019 following his conviction and a 10-year prison sentence on corruption charges. Khan, at the time, had allowed him to travel abroad to receive medical treatment after complaining of chest pains. Sharif later prolonged his stay in London, saying his doctors were not allowing him to return to Pakistan. A Pakistani federal court on Thursday granted him several days of protection in graft cases, clearing the way for his return. At Islamabad's airport Saturday, legal advisers and senior members of Sharif's Pakistan Muslim League party gave him a warm welcome. He then flew to Lahore, where tens of thousands of supporters gathered at a public park to greet him. In a speech there, he said he was forgiving all those who caused harm to him in the past. "I have no intention to take revenge on anyone," he said in his televised speech.

S. Korea, US, Japan hold first-ever trilateral aerial exercise in face of North Korean threats

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—The South Korean, U.S. and Japanese militaries conducted their first-ever trilateral aerial exercise on Sunday in response to evolving North Korean nuclear threats, South Korea's air force said. The training held near the Korean Peninsula was to implement the three countries' earlier agreement to increase defense cooperation and boost their joint response capabilities against North Korean threats, the air force said in a statement. The drill involved a nuclear-capable B-52 bomber from the United States and fighter jets from South Korea and Japan, the statement said. South Korea and Japan are both key U.S. allies in Asia, which together host about 80,000 American troops. The three countries have occasionally held trilateral maritime drills, such as anti-submarine or missile defense exercises, but Sunday's training marked the first time for them to perform a trilateral aerial drill. In South Korea, expanding military drills with Japan is a sensitive issue, because many still harbor strong resentment against Japan's brutal 1910-45 colonial rule over the Korean Peninsula. But the North's advancing nuclear program has pushed South Korea's conservative president, Yoon Suk Yeol, to move beyond historical disputes with Japan and beef up a trilateral security cooperation with the U.S. and Japan. In August, Yoon, U.S. President Joe Biden and Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida met at Camp David in their countries' first stand-alone trilateral summit and agreed to bolster their defense cooperation to deal with North Korea's nuclear threats. The three leaders decided to hold annual trilateral exercises and put into operation by year's end the sharing of real-time missile warning data on North Korea.

Canada removes 41 diplomats from India after New Delhi threatens to revoke immunity

TORONTO (AP)—Canada has recalled 41 of its diplomats from India after the Indian government said it would revoke their diplomatic immunity, the foreign minister said Thursday, in an escalation of their dispute over the slaying of a Sikh separatist in Canada. The moves come after Canada's allegations that India may have been involved in the June killing of Canadian citizen Hardeep Singh Nijjar in suburban Vancouver. India has accused Canada of harboring separatists and "terrorists," but dismissed the allegation of its involvement in the killing as "absurd" and has taken diplomatic steps to express its anger over the accusation. Foreign Minister Mélanie Joly said Thursday that 41 of Canada's 62 diplomats in India have been removed, along with their dependents. Joly said exceptions have been made for 21 Canadian diplomats who will remain in India. "Forty-one Canadian diplomats and their 42 dependents were in danger of having their immunity stripped on an arbitrary date and this would put their personal safety at risk," Joly said. "Our diplomats and their families have now left." Joly said removing diplomatic immunity is not only unprecedented but contrary to international law, and said for that reason Canada wouldn't threaten to do the same thing with Indian diplomats.

World

Second aid convoy reaches Gaza

AP

Palestinians are evacuated from buildings hit in the Israeli bombardment of the Gaza Strip in Rafah, Sunday, Oct. 22, 2023.

RAFAH, Gaza Strip (AP)—The second aid convoy destined for desperate Palestinian civilians reached Gaza on Sunday, as Israel widened its attacks to include targets in Syria and the occupied West Bank and the Israeli prime minister warned Lebanon's Hezbollah militant group that if it launches its own war, "we will cripple it with a force it cannot even imagine."

» As Israel attacks targets in Syria, West Bank

For days, Israel has been on the verge of launching a ground offensive in Gaza following Hamas' brutal Oct. 7 rampage through a series of Israeli communities. Tanks and troops have been massed at the Gaza border, waiting for the command to cross.

Israel's military spokesman, Rear Adm. Daniel Hagari, said the country had increased airstrikes across Gaza to hit targets that would reduce the risk to troops in the next stage of the war.

Fears of a widening war grew as Israeli warplanes struck targets across Gaza, two airports in Syria and a mosque in the occupied West Bank allegedly used by militants.

Israel has traded fire with Hezbollah militants since the war began, and tensions are soaring in the West Bank, where Israeli forces have battled militants in refugee camps and carried out two airstrikes in recent days.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu told troops in northern Israel that if Hezbollah launches a war, "it will make the mistake of its life. We will cripple it with a force it cannot even imagine, and the consequences for it and the Lebanese state will be devastating."

Hamas said it fought with Israeli forces near Khan Younis in southern Gaza and destroyed a tank and two bulldozers.

Late Sunday, Hagari announced that a soldier was killed and three others wounded by an anti-tank missile during a raid inside Gaza as part of efforts to rescue more than 200 hostages abducted in the Oct. 7 attack.

On Saturday, 20 trucks entered Gaza in the first aid shipment into the territory since Israel imposed a complete siege two weeks ago.

Israeli authorities said late Sunday they had allowed a second batch of aid into Gaza at the request of the United States. COGAT, the Israeli defense body responsible for Palestinian civilian affairs, said the aid included water, food and medical supplies and that everything was inspected by Israel before it was brought into Gaza.

The U.N. agency for Palestinian refugees confirmed the arrival of 14 trucks.

Israel has not allowed any fuel to enter Gaza.

UK records fourth death linked to a storm that battered northern Europe

LONDON (AP)—Police said Sunday that a fourth person has died in Britain during a storm that pounded the U.K. and northern Europe with gale-force winds and torrential rain.

Derbyshire Police said a woman in her 80s was found dead at a home in Chesterfield, central England. Her death was being linked to flooding in the area.

In nearby Derby, the River Derwent reached its highest-ever recorded level on Saturday during a storm that brought 8 inches (200 mm) of rain to parts of Britain.

Since Thursday, at least five people have died in the storm—named Babet by the U.K. Meteorological Office—that battered Britain, northern Germany and southern Scandinavia with powerful winds, heavy rain and sea surges.

In Britain, a man and a woman were killed after being swept away by floodwaters, and another man died when a tree fell on his vehicle. In Germany, a 33-year-old woman was killed when a tree fell on her car on the Baltic Sea island of Fehmarn on Friday.

A search was continuing for a man reported trapped in a vehicle in floodwater in Scotland.

Some of the worst flooding was in eastern Scotland, where more than 300 homes were evacuated in the town of Brechin and residents told to leave before the River South Esk breached its banks Friday, surging almost 4 meters (13 feet) above its usual level and sending water pouring into the streets.

Coast guard helicopters lifted more than half the staff off a North Sea oil platform almost 150 miles (240 kilometers) east of Scotland, after four of its eight anchors came loose during the storm on Saturday. Operator Stena Drilling said the Stena Spey platform was stable.

The weather calmed Sunday but flooding continued to cause disruption to road and rail travel across a large swath of central and northern Britain. The Environment Agency issued more than 200 flood warnings for parts of England and said major rivers could remain flooded until Tuesday.

Overdrive

2023 Bentley GTC Speed is 'worth'y

ALEX LAWRENCE/BENTLEY

The 2023 Bentley GTC Speed is powered by a 6.0 liter twin turbo W12 engine.

By MARC D. GRASSO
Boston Herald

As Bentley enters Grasso's Garage, they bring their best of the best to the table for a slice of the review pie, the 2023 Bentley GT Continental Speed. A convertible fit for a king and queen, who enjoy the stature of an exquisite vehicle while enjoying the options, appearance and comfort of a convertible.

Our 2023 Bentley GT Continental Speed was painted in Kingfisher, an amazing baby blue color with pearl and sparkle flake added. One of 63 exterior color options, this is by far the nicest color in the fleet. With black and kingfisher interior stitching, the Bentley GTC shows out super nice on the road and to onlookers alike. Its display in typical Bentley fashion is an eye catcher and one that is rarely witnessed by many. The front fascia, exterior badging and that iconic nose are what Bentley is all about. Color options include the exterior and the roof, while the interior includes veneers and the hide. Overall, by my count, I see more than 300 different color combination options to choose from, which is nice to confirm you have the only one in town.

NUTS & BOLTS

- **MSRP**: $317,300
- **MPG**: 12 city/18 highway/14.7 as tested
- **As Tested**:$384,095

Powering the illustrious Bentley GTC Speed is a 6.0-liter Twin Turbo W12 engine. This 650 horsepower and 664 pound-feet of torque, making this an absolute animal on the road. With a 3.6 second 0-60 mpg time, the GTC Speed means business. The GTC Speed is the ultimate sports-focused grand tourer from Bentley. Riding on 22" sport black painted wheels, the GTC Speed shows out very nicely.

ALEX LAWRENCE/BENTLEY

The 2023 Bentley GTC Speed does a great job with interior comfort, and exterior aesthetics.

Powerful and handcrafted, the GTC comes in six models, with the Speed as the middle and the Mulliner at the top of the food chain.

As Bentley continues to prove that they are leaders of upscale perfection, they do a great job with interior comfort and exterior aesthetics. For a $300K+ base price, the GTC is not for everyone, but just right for the upscale neighbor of whom you always wanted to know their profession before they retired.

ALEX LAWRENCE/BENTLEY

The 2023 Bentley GTC Speed has 22" sport wheels.

Are those tires legal?

MOTORMOUTH

BY BOB WEBER
Tribune News Service

Bob Weber is a writer and mechanic who became an ASE-certified Master Automobile Technician in 1976. Weber's work has appeared in professional trade magazines and various consumer publications including Consumer Guide *and* Consumers Digest. *Send questions along with name and town to motormouth.tribune@gmail.com.*

Q: This past weekend, I had a very frightening experience. A really modified pickup truck: loud muffler, high off the ground and very wide tires (at least 3 to 4 inches beyond the fender), passed me going very fast. I didn't mind the speed; it was the piece of junk that his right rear tire picked up at its outer edge and threw back at me. It actually went over me and hit the car behind me, cracked his windshield and nearly caused a catastrophic accident. Aren't tires supposed to be covered by extending the fender to prevent throw backs like this?

A.T., Bethlehem, Pennsylvania

A: In many states, but not all, tires that extend beyond the fenders are illegal. That is because incidents such as yours are a true safety hazard. In Pennsylvania, they are illegal, and the vehicle will not pass the annual safety inspection. If cited by a police officer, there is also a fine. Exceptions are occasionally made for add-on fender extensions or mud flaps.

■■■

Q: I owned a 2008 *Z4* and could not rotate the tires front to back because the back tires were wider than the front tires. I'd double check your advice about tire rotation on the 2003 Z4.

B.W., Chicago

A: My answer was for general tire rotations. There are exceptions, as you pointed out, but I try to aid the largest portion of my readership. Yes, different sized tires cannot be moved to another axle. Tires with a specified direction of rotation don't follow the general rules, either. Yeah, I blew it by overlooking the reader's mention that it was a BMW Z4. Thanks.

■■■

Q: I have a 2012 Chrysler 200 and have a problem with the wipers turning on and going one swipe back and forth with the wiper switch off. On a rare occasion, they turn on when the wiper switch is off; I have to turn the switch on then off for them to stop. I took my car to the dealer and they couldn't get it to do it, but they looked in Chrysler's archives and found that a ground wire could be the problem. They cleaned all of the ground wires and when I got my car back, it was the same problem. Any suggestions?

G.D., Harleysville, Pennsylvania

A: There are not many ground wires in a car. In fact, almost the entire car is the ground circuit. If you look, you may see that the ground cable from the battery is connected to the engine as well as another point on the body, usually the firewall. Here's the weird part: A poor ground on another component could be chasing for a ground somewhere else and that somewhere else may be your wiper switch.

■■■

Q: At a recent inspection, it was discovered that I needed an axle boot replaced on my 2013 Chevy Malibu. Coincidently, I was going on a six-hour drive the following week. Was there a possibility of anything going bad for me if I was unaware of the boot issue?

J.A., Allentown, Pennsylvania

A: If the tear is recent, you should be fine. The boot covers the constant velocity (CV) joint on the axle and the grease does not usually spew out quickly. Replacement boots do not require removing the axle and just about any repair shop can easily handle the job. If you wait too long, dirt and grit can enter and damage the CV joint.

Life & Style

Streep, Murakami among Asturias prize winners

OVIEDO, Spain (AP)—American actor Meryl Streep on Friday received Spain's prestigious Princess of Asturias Arts Award at a ceremony presided over by the Spanish royal family in the northern city of Oviedo.

During her acceptance speech, Streep spoke about the empathy actors must feel for their characters and which people in cinemas and theaters feel for people on screen or stage that look—or sound—different to themselves, as something that could be useful in everyday life too.

"Empathy may be a radical form of outreach and diplomacy useful in other theaters of endeavor" she said. "In our world, in our increasingly hostile, volatile world, I hope we might take to heart another rule every actor is taught, that is: it is all about listening."

The prize was one of eight awarded this year in areas covering the arts, literature, science and international cooperation among others. The annual awards are among the most important in the Spanish-speaking world.

Others honored at the ceremony were bestselling Japanese author Haruki Murakami, who won the literature prize and U.S. biologists Jeffrey Gordon, Peter Greenberg and Bonnie Bassler, who received the scientific and technical research prize. Gordon was unable to attend.

Two of the 2023 winners, French historian Hélène Carrère d'Encausse, who won the social sciences award, and Italian author and philosopher Nuccio Ordine, who won the communication and humanities prize, died earlier this year and were represented by relatives.

AP

Japanese author Haruki Murakami, right is applauded by actress Meryl Streep before receiving the Princess of Asturias Award for Literature during the awards ceremony in Oviedo, northern Spain, Friday, Oct. 20, 2023.

Scottish charity group Mary's Meals, which won the concord award for its work feeding schoolchildren facing extreme poverty across the globe and The Drugs for Neglected Diseases initiative (DNDi) which was honored with the international cooperation distinction, were also represented.

Sports award winner, Kenyan marathon legend Eliud Kipchoge, said in a speech that running for him was much more than a physical exercise.

"We must make our world a running world, because a running world is a happy world. And a happy world is a peaceful world," he said.

The prizes, for which the winners receive 50,000 euros ($53,000) and a sculpture by Spanish Catalan artist Joan Miró, were formally presented by Crown Princess Leonor after whom the prize foundation is named.

The Hollywood actors strike hits 100 days. Why hasn't a deal been reached and what's next?

LOS ANGELES (AP)—While screenwriters are busy back at work, film and TV actors remain on picket lines, with the longest strike in their history hitting the 100-day mark Saturday after talks broke off with studios. On the same day, the actors' union and an alliance representing major studios announced in a joint statement that negotiations will resume next week on Tuesday, with several studio executives expected to join. Here's a look at where things stand, how their stretched-out standoff compares to past strikes, and what happens next.

INSIDE THE TALKS THAT FAILED

Hopes were high and leaders of the Screen Actors Guild-American Federation of Television and Radio Artists were cautiously optimistic when they resumed negotiations Oct. 2 for the first time since the strike began 2 1/2 months earlier.

The same group of chief executives from the biggest studios had made a major deal just over a week earlier with striking writers, whose leaders celebrated their gains on many issues actors are also fighting for: long-term pay, consistency of employment and control over the use of artificial intelligence.

But the actors' talks were tepid, with days off between sessions and no reports of progress. Then studios abruptly ended discussions Oct. 11, saying the actors' demands were exorbitantly expensive and the two sides were too far apart to continue.

"We only met with them a couple of times, Monday, half a day Wednesday, half a day Friday. That was what they were available for," SAG-AFTRA President Fran Drescher told The Associated Press soon after the talks broke off. "Then this past week, it was Monday and a half a day on Wednesday. And then, 'Bye-bye.' I've never really met people that actually don't understand what negotiations mean. Why are you walking away from the table?"

The reasons, according to the Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers, included a union demand for a fee for each subscriber to streaming services.

Family can't stomach dad's kitchen creations

DEAR ABBY: My husband loves cooking for the family. Unfortunately, he's a horrible cook. My kids hate what he prepares, so most of the food goes in the trash.

I have had many conversations with him about this, begging him not to do it and telling him if he wants to cook, he should make something for himself. His reply is always, "I'm not forcing you guys to eat my food. You are welcome to eat something else." But when we do that, he sulks and ruins everyone's day, so we end up giving in. I don't know how to get through to him about this.

TASTES BAD IN THE EAST

DEAR TASTES BAD: You can talk till you're blue in the face, and your husband still won't get the message because he doesn't want to hear it. He doesn't CARE about the waste.

Of course, you and the kids could explain EXACTLY what you don't like about what he has prepared, and offer suggestions about the seasoning, etc., which might help him. And perhaps you could all cook together from time to time.

In the future, when your children achieve independence and the family gathers, each family member may want to bring their food with them. However, while they live under your roof, they'll have to accept what their father insists on giving them.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My son is getting married in Mexico in six months. I would like to take a special friend with me as my plus-one. My wife has dementia. It is quite severe, and she has been in a care facility for two years. She no longer recognizes anyone, including me. Would it be wrong to take my lady friend to Mexico? We haven't been intimate yet, but romance at the beach in Mexico is very possible. What do I do?

UNCERTAIN IN IOWA

DEAR UNCERTAIN: Your son's wedding is not the time to "surprise" anyone with this lady's presence. Depending upon how large your family is and how close you all are, some people may already be aware that you're involved with someone and why. But ask your son and his fiancee if bringing her would be disruptive, and gracefully base your decision on their response. A wedding is supposed to be about the bride and groom on their special day with no distractions.

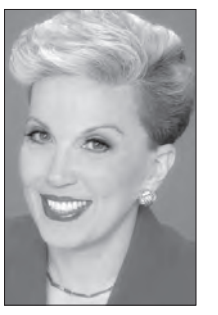
■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I heard my old high school boyfriend was arrested. It made the news. I hadn't seen or heard from him in more than a decade. While I'm relieved that I dodged a bullet (I am happily married to someone else now), I feel terrible for his mom. We are still friends on social media and keep up with each other. Should I reach out to her in what must be a humiliating and concerning time, or should I keep to myself?

HESITANT IN TEXAS

DEAR ABBY

By Abigail Van Buren
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

DEAR HESITANT: Because you and this woman have a relationship that extended beyond the one between you and her son, by all means reach out. Tell her you heard what happened, and that you care about her and want to be supportive. She may or may not contact you, but she'll know you care about her. Knowing someone cares could make all the difference for her.

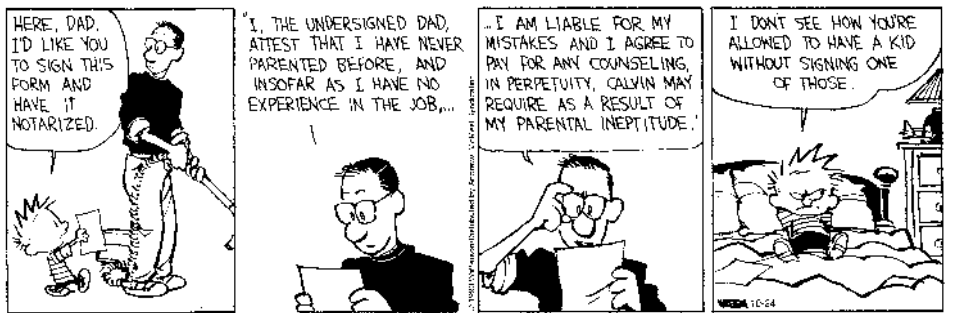
■ ■ ■

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable – and most frequently requested – poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


HERE, DAD. I'D LIKE YOU TO SIGN THIS FORM AND HAVE IT NOTARIZED.
"I, THE UNDERSIGNED DAD, ATTEST THAT I HAVE NEVER PARENTED BEFORE, AND INSOFAR AS I HAVE NO EXPERIENCE IN THE JOB,...
...I AM LIABLE FOR MY MISTAKES AND I AGREE TO PAY FOR ANY COUNSELING, IN PERPETUITY, CALVIN MAY REQUIRE AS A RESULT OF MY PARENTAL INEPTITUDE."
I DON'T SEE HOW YOU'RE ALLOWED TO HAVE A KID WITHOUT SIGNING ONE OF THOSE.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

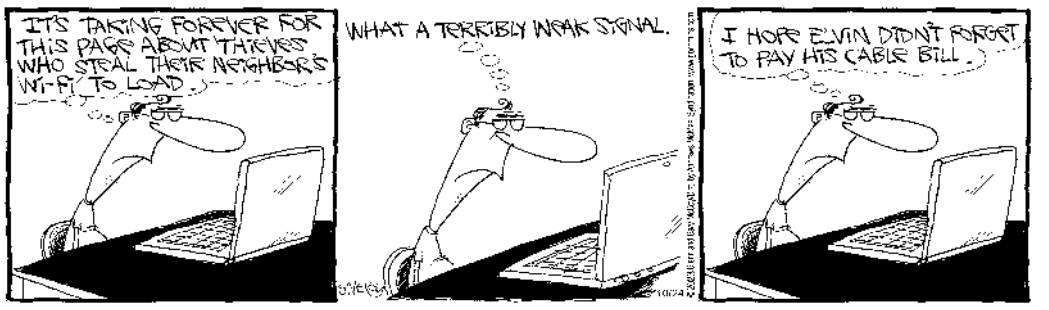
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

YOU SCARED KATY?
I DID. PRETTY BAD, TOO.
I'M WORRIED.
SHE'S BEEN IN HER ROOM EVER SINCE. SHE'S GONE QUIET.
OOH. THE QUIET IS THE WORST.
IS THERE A CIRCUS NEARBY I COULD RUN AWAY TO?

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


IT'S TAKING FOREVER FOR THIS PAGE ABOUT THIEVES WHO STEAL THEIR NEIGHBOR'S WI-FI TO LOAD...
WHAT A TERRIBLY WEAK SIGNAL.
I HOPE ELVIN DIDN'T FORGET TO PAY HIS CABLE BILL.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

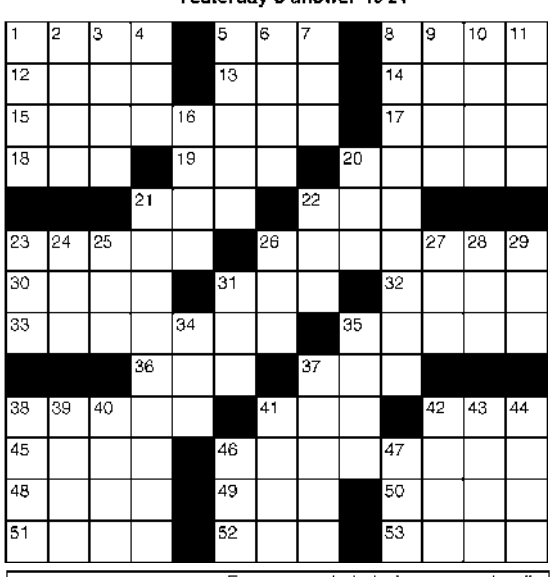
ACROSS
1 Dud
5 "Succession" airer
8 Pretzel seasoning
12 "Othello" villain
13 — Lingus
14 Crossword hint
15 Write quickly
17 Hamburger holder
18 Casual shirt
19 Squeak stopper
20 Boxer's dream
21 Posed for a portrait
22 Balm target
23 Dealer's foes
26 Drooping
30 "Firestorm" author Nevada
31 Possesses
32 Taxi alternative
33 Betting settings
35 Knight wear
36 Red-carpet type
37 Compass dir.
38 Alphabetized list
41 Congeal
42 Glam Gardner
45 Benefit
46 Russian composer Alexander
48 Capri, e.g.
49 Cushion
50 Maintained
51 Crystal gazer
52 Comic Schumer
53 "Don't move!"

DOWN
1 Pugilist's weapon
2 Valentine border
3 Folklore monster
4 Luau dish
5 Custom
6 Phone inventor
7 Raw rock
8 Sacred writings
9 Oodles
10 Temporary calm
11 Conference leader?
16 Fluffy scarves
20 Up to
21 Copyist of yore
22 Fleur-de- —
23 Co. with a peacock logo
24 Bond rating
25 Train lines (Abbr.)
26 Existed
27 "Big Blue"
28 "The Matrix" character
29 Fido's warning
31 Short trip
34 Prohibit
35 Against
37 Hardly hip
38 Sacred bird of Egypt
39 Schnozz
40 Hand (out)
41 Swindle
42 Help a hood
43 Home improvement pro Bob
44 Artist Warhol
46 Hotel amenity
47 Spa sounds

Solution time: 22 mins.

A	S	P			D	O	II		S	C	W	N
G	O	A	T		A	K	A		O	D	I	N
A	R	C	H		M	A	N		C	U	T	E
ñ	E	S	E	T		Y	O	G	I			
			C	O	B		I	S	A	A	C	S
A	T	L	A	N	T	A		A	L	O	H	A
P	H	A	T		S	A	P		S	N	A	G
P	A	R	S	E		S	O	C	K	E	T	S
S	T	A	K	E	S		E	L	I			
			I	K	E	A		E	L	B	O	W
A	B	E	L		N	I	A		L	O	M	A
M	A	L	L		O	D	D		S	A	N	G
I	N	K	S		R	A	D			S	I	S

Yesterday's answer 10-24



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Shenae Grimes, 34; Eliza Taylor, 34; B.D. Wong, 63; Kevin Kline, 76.

Happy Birthday: Pick up the pace and take care of unfinished business. Clearing a passage that opens you to new and exciting adventures will motivate you to be an overachiever this year. Let your imagination lead the way and your discipline carry you to your desired destination. Create opportunities in your mind and adjust to the journey that beckons you. Make a sound relationship a priority. Your numbers are 3, 8, 14, 21, 27, 36, 48.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Focus on what's important to you. Do your own thing and stay out of sight. You'll gain ground if you have tunnel vision and follow your heart. Refuse to let anyone bully you into taking on something that benefits them more than you. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Don't hesitate; take the initiative and reach for the stars. You've got what it takes to make a difference and to sink your teeth into something that brings you joy. How you connect and use your skills will open doors that can make your journey exciting. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Don't give away your secrets or allow others to interfere with your plans. Work undercover, and you'll find it easier to reach your objective quickly, allowing you to launch what you have to offer without competition. Stay ahead of the game. ✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Juggle your schedule to suit your needs. Talk to experts, consider your options and align yourself with people who can help you reach your goal. Alter your home and lifestyle to mesh with opportunities and events in order to help you reach your target. ✪✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Stay calm, avoid chaos and live within your means. Offer what you can, and take on what benefits your long-term plans. Refuse to let others dictate what's best for you. Keep your life simple, under your control and heading in a positive direction. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Live, learn and experience what life offers. Short trips, conversations and a change for the better are within reach if you broaden your horizons and network with like-minded people in your community. Don't procrastinate if action is necessary. Personal gain is apparent. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Listen, and you'll keep the peace at home. Changing how you allocate money will encourage a lifestyle that puts your mind at ease and enables you to follow what makes you happy. Use your imagination, pay attention to detail and excel. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Making home improvements, networking and implementing the changes necessary to reach your objective will get you where you want to go. A joint effort will lead to unexpected opportunities. Put your heart and soul into self-improvement and worthwhile connections, and something positive will transpire. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Keep an open mind, listen and contemplate what's best for you. Worrying less about what others do or say will make it easier for you. Set boundaries if someone is being too aggressive or not pulling their weight. ✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Follow the money and discover how to cut your overhead to create opportunities to enjoy leisure time. Sell items you no longer need, and declutter your space to make room to accommodate things that are meaningful to you. Home improvements and romance are favored. ✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Keep your eye on the ball and take notes. Don't expect anyone to give you something for nothing. A hyped-up deal will disappoint, but investing more time in you and your surroundings will spark innovative ways to expand your interests. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Establish what you want and what it will cost, and start saving. A change may seem unattainable, but you will reach your target with ingenuity and discipline. Changing how you manage or make your money will lead to financial opportunity. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are detailed, insightful and proactive. You are playful and flexible.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

1	9	2	7	6		8	5	
8	7				3		9	
3	4				8		6	7
2								9
5	1	4	6	2			7	
		9					2	
	3			8	6	1		
		8	4			9	3	
		1	3		2	7		

Difficulty: ★★ 10/24

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

9	3	2	8	1	4	5	6	7
8	4	1	5	6	7	3	9	2
5	7	6	2	3	9	1	4	8
6	5	9	7	2	3	8	1	4
4	2	3	9	8	1	7	5	6
1	8	7	6	4	5	9	2	3
2	1	8	3	9	6	4	7	5
7	6	4	1	5	8	2	3	9
3	9	5	4	7	2	6	8	1

Difficulty: ★ 10/23

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

PHOTOJOURNALISTS Solution: 5 letters

M	U	E	S	U	M	Y	T	I	R	B	E	L	E	C
U	E	S	F	L	L	A	N	D	S	C	A	P	E	A
L	N	S	A	E	S	T	R	O	P	S	U	X	N	P
T	V	A	S	V	I	D	E	O	E	B	H	T	I	T
I	I	Y	H	A	P	T	R	C	L	I	S	E	Z	U
M	R	S	I	R	G	T	N	I	B	E	C	X	A	R
E	O	E	O	T	R	E	C	I	S	R	H	T	G	E
D	N	R	N	A	I	L	T	N	R	G	O	R	A	D
I	M	U	I	C	A	N	E	N	O	P	O	A	M	A
A	E	T	S	U	O	L	E	L	E	I	L	F	L	O
R	N	C	S	I	N	S	B	S	I	M	N	F	I	L
E	T	I	T	E	R	U	T	A	N	M	U	I	F	N
M	V	P	W	C	I	T	S	I	T	R	A	C	P	W
A	A	S	T	O	R	Y	R	E	L	L	A	G	O	O
C	O	M	M	E	R	C	I	A	L	I	A	T	E	D

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Yesterday's Answer: Imperial

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Eovaldi remains perfect, Rangers slug way to force Game 7 in ALCS

HOUSTON (AP)—One more Texas-sized matchup to finally settle this Lone Star State showdown.

Nathan Eovaldi remained perfect this postseason, and Mitch Garver and Jonah Heim homered early before a ninth-inning grand slam by Adolis García helped the Texas Rangers avoid elimination with a 9-2 win over the Houston Astros in Game 6 of the AL Championship Series on Sunday night.

Road teams are unbeaten in this series going into the decisive Game 7 on Monday night in Houston. Cristian Javier pitches for the Astros against three-time Cy Young Award winner Max Scherzer. Javier beat Scherzer in Game 3 at Texas.

"I'm just proud of how these guys keep bouncing back," Rangers manager Bruce Bochy said. "They're amazing. They really are. They just don't let adversity get to them."

Texas and Houston had identical regular-season records (90-72), with the AL West title going to the Astros on a head-to-head tiebreaker. Now the heated rivals are tied once again, and this time the stakes are much higher—with a World Series trip on the line.

Eovaldi, who also won Game 2, yielded five hits and two runs in 6 1/3 innings to improve to 4-0 with a 2.42 ERA in the playoffs this year. The wild-card Rangers, one of six major league teams without a World Series title, are trying to return to the Fall Classic for the first time since back-to-back trips in 2010-11.

"Of course, Nate set the tone out there. How many times has he done that?" Bochy said. "And we just had great at-bats throughout the lineup."

AP

Texas Rangers starting pitcher Nathan Eovaldi thorws during the first inning of Game 6 of the baseball AL Championship Series against the Houston Astros Sunday, Oct. 22, 2023, in Houston.

The defending World Series champion Astros were again felled by a subpar start from Framber Valdez and lackluster play at home. Valdez was charged with five hits and three runs while striking out six in five innings to fall to 0-3 with a 9.00 ERA this postseason.

The Rangers led by two before breaking open the game with a five-run ninth, punctuated by the slam from García—who struck out his previous four times up. The slugger was booed throughout the game after being at the center of a bench-clearing scuffle in Game 5 after being hit by a pitch from Bryan Abreu.

When García knocked a pitch from Ryne Stanek into the Crawford Boxes in left field with one out, many of those fans began streaming for the exits after yet another poor showing at home by Houston.

The Astros, who are 5-0 on the road this postseason, won three in a row in Arlington wearing their orange jerseys to move within a win of reaching their third consecutive World Series. But those orange tops didn't help them carry their road magic home as they fell to 1-4 in Houston this postseason after posting a 39-42 mark at Minute Maid Park in the regular season.

"That doesn't matter. It's in the past," left fielder Michael Brantley said. "We need to turn the page and be ready for tomorrow."

No team with a losing record at home has ever reached the World Series.

This series joins the 2019 World Series, which Houston lost to Washington in seven games, as the only best-of-seven series in postseason history in which the road team won the first six games.

"Seems a little odd nobody is winning at home," Garver said. "And I would like for it to stay that way."

Bochy was at a loss when asked to explain why home has been anything but sweet during this series.

"Wow, I wish I could answer that one," he said. "That's the million-dollar question."

Houston led by one after a first-inning RBI single by Yordan Alvarez. Garver tied it on his solo shot to start the second.

Heim connected off Valdez for the second time this series with a two-run shot with two outs in the fourth that put Texas on top 3-1.

"I think seven out of their nine runs scored were on homers. So you've really got to keep them in the ballpark," Astros manager Dusty Baker said.

Houston got within 3-2 on a sacrifice fly by Mauricio Dubón in the sixth. But the Rangers got some insurance thanks to an RBI double by Garver in the eighth off Abreu.

It was the first time the Rangers won an elimination game in the postseason since Game 5 of the 2010 AL Division Series at Tampa Bay when Cliff Lee pitched a complete game in a 5-1 Texas victory. They'd lost five straight such games, and Sunday's win was just their second in eight tries.

The Astros had a shot to cut into the lead late before García's big swing, but Texas reliever José Leclerc came through after giving up the decisive three-run homer to Jose Altuve in the ninth inning of Game 5.

Josh Sborz walked Alex Bregman to start the Houston eighth and struck out Alvarez before José Abreu singled with one out.

Leclerc took over and walked Kyle Tucker to load the bases before Dubón lined out softly to shortstop. Pinch-hitter Jon Singleton, who entered with one career postseason at-bat, batted for Jeremy Peña and struck out against Leclerc to end the threat.

Houston went 1 for 8 with runners in scoring position.

"The name of the game is opportunities, and then after that you hope that you come through," Baker said. "Some days you just don't get it done."

Alvarez got Houston's first hit since the first inning with a one-out single in the sixth. Dubón's sacrifice fly cut the lead to one.

The Astros looked good early against Eovaldi. Altuve hit a leadoff single and stole second before Brantley walked. There was one out when Alvarez lined a single to make it 1-0. Eovaldi limited the damage when José Abreu lined out before Tucker struck out.

"I felt like I was trying to do a little too much out there," Eovaldi said of his shaky start. "One run ended up scoring and it's like, I've got to make sure I leave them there, and at that point of time, try to make sure I execute my pitches."

Garver sent the first pitch of the second inning into the seats in right field to tie it. The ball was caught barehanded by a man in the second row.

Garver, who had three hits, singled with two outs in the fourth, and Heim followed with his opposite-field shot to right field to make it 3-1. The ball sailed just past the glove of a leaping Tucker and into the first row. Heim, who had a career-high 18 home runs in the regular season, also homered off Valdez in Game 2.

Bryan Abreu pitched the eighth for Houston after appealing the two-game suspension he was given by Major League Baseball for intentionally throwing at García.

The reliever's hearing is Monday before John McHale Jr., special assistant to Commissioner Rob Manfred.

"That could be a huge blow," Baker said. "You wish you had some final decision about his status. So we took a shot there. Hopefully some of this will be postponed and we'll have him tomorrow, as well."

Bryan Abreu struck out García in the eighth before an RBI double by Garver extended Texas' lead to 4-2.

Corey Seager was hit by a pitch with the bases loaded in the ninth before García's slam gave him five homers and 15 RBIs in 11 games this postseason. He has gone deep in each of the past three games.

Phillies turn to Aaron Nola to pitch them past Arizona and into World Series

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Aaron Nola takes the ball in Game 6 of the NL Championship Series with a couple of familiar questions swirling around him.

Can he pitch the Phillies one win closer to a World Series title?

If not, might this be his last start in a Philadelphia uniform?

The answer to the first query is an easy one—a resounding yes. Nola is 3-0 in the postseason—including seven shutout innings in the NL wild-card clincher against Miami—with a 0.96 ERA. He has allowed two runs in 18 2/3 innings, struck out 19 and walked two.

With a second straight trip to the World Series at stake, Nola gets the call Monday night against Arizona in the NLCS.

Now, as for his last start with the Phillies...

If he wins Monday, he's sure to pitch again. But Nola knows each postseason outing has the potential of serving as his last one with the Phillies as he nears the end of his five-year contract.

The 30-year-old Nola is eligible for free agency after the World Series because his agent and the front office broke off negotiations in spring training. Nola, the longest-tenured player on these Phillies, wanted to stay focused this season on doing his part to win Philadelphia's first World Series crown since 2008.

With each shutdown inning in the postseason, Nola has significantly added value to his next contract. He's also made it clear, he doesn't want to go far to find a new team. In fact, he kind of likes the one he's played for in all nine major league seasons.

Nola wants to stay in Philly.

"I really do. I love it here," he said. "Obviously, it's the only place I've been. I came up through some special times in the rebuilding era. To be on a team like I am now, it's really cool and special to see and to be a part of all the success and failures to get to where we are now."

Throw Angels two-way star Shohei Ohtani out of the picture and the market for free-agent pitchers is thin. Especially one with a resume like Nola's — five seasons of 200-plus strikeouts, five seasons of 30-plus starts, and a 90-71 career record.

Nola endured three straight 90-loss seasons with the Phillies before the arrivals of Bryce Harper, J.T. Realmuto, Kyle Schwarber and fellow ace Zack Wheeler turned the Phillies into contenders.

He wants to see it through with a World Series parade.

"Each year better players came through, better guys coming through, forming new relationships, so obviously I love that part about it," Nola said.

The Phillies' clubhouse has become a family environment, for sure. Nick Castellanos, Harper and Wheeler have made their kids as much a part of the Phillies as the "Daycare" kids—the nickname given to young players like Alec Bohm, Bryson Stott and Brandon Marsh.

"I see so many kids running around the clubhouse and guys and their sons and daughters," he said. "It's pretty cool to see."

He and his wife, Hunter Jayde, are about to join the parenting club. Nola's wife posted a pregnancy announcement on her Instagram page hours after the dad-to-be tossed seven shutout innings against the Marlins to earn, ahem, a berth in the NL Division Series.

Not a bad night.

Belichick gets 300th regular-season win as Patriots beat Bills

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. (AP) — Mac Jones threw a 1-yard touchdown pass to Mike Gesicki with 12 seconds remaining to lift the New England Patriots to a 29-25 win over the Buffalo Bills on Sunday, making Bill Belichick the third coach in NFL history with 300 regular-season victories.

Belichick joins Pro Football Hall of Famers Don Shula (328) and George Halas (318) as the only coaches to reach the milestone.

Jones completed 25 of 30 passes for 272 yards and two touchdowns as the Patriots (2-5) snapped a three-game skid. Ezekiel Elliott rushed for a score and rookie Chad Ryland added three field goals to help the Patriots beat back a second-half rally by Buffalo (4-3), which briefly took the lead late in the fourth quarter.

Josh Allen was 27 of 41 for 265 yards with two TDs ran for a score. He also threw an interception that set up New England's first touchdown. The Bills struggled on third down and scored touchdowns on only two of their four red-zone opportunities.

Allen led two touchdown drives late in the fourth quarter to turn a 22-10 deficit into a 25-10 lead for Buffalo.

Jones began the decisive drive with a short pass to Rhamondre Stevenson that turned into a 34-yard gain. He hit Hunter Harvey for 14 yards on a third-and-8, and the Patriots had a first-and-goal after six plays. A pass-interference penalty set them up at the Buffalo 1, and Jones connected with Gesicki on second down.

AP

New England Patriots quarterback Mac Jones (10) celebrates after a touchdown by running back Ezekiel Elliott during the first half of an NFL football game against the Buffalo Bills, Sunday, Oct. 22, 2023, in Foxborough, Mass.

EAGLES 31, DOLPHINS 17

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Jalen Hurts rebounded from a pick-6 to hit A.J. Brown for the go-ahead touchdown on the next drive, and Philadelphia beat Miami.

Hurts threw for 279 yards and two touchdowns and ran for another score for the Eagles (6-1). He was intercepted twice but found Brown 10 times for 137 yards to best his former Alabama teammate Tua Tagovailoa and the Dolphins (5-2).

With the Dolphins trailing 24-17 in the fourth quarter, Tagovailoa went deep on a pass intended for Raheem Mostert that Darius Slay intercepted near the goal line and returned 16 yards.

The Eagles tush-pushed their way toward first downs on a clock-eating drive late in the fourth before Hurts hit Brown for a 42-yard reception and Kenneth Gainwell sealed the win with a 3-yard touchdown run.

RAVENS 38, LIONS 6

BALTIMORE (AP)—Lamar Jackson guided Baltimore to touchdowns on its first four possessions of a dominant first half, and the Ravens trounced Detroit in a matchup of division leaders that was lopsided from the start.

Baltimore (5-2) was up 28-0 before the NFC North-leading Lions (5-2) even managed a first down. It was the most complete performance of the season by the Ravens, and a resurgent Detroit squad fell flat while facing a major test on the road.

Jackson went 21 of 27 for 357 yards and three touchdowns, finishing with a near-perfect passer rating of 155.8. He also ran for a TD. Jackson had great success with deep passes, often finding receivers open in the secondary with plenty of room to run. Baltimore protected Jackson well, and when that started to break down, his scrambling kept plays going.

CHIEFS 31, CHARGERS 17

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)—Patrick Mahomes threw for 424 yards and four touchdowns, Travis Kelce caught 12 passes for 179 yards and a score, and Kansas City beat Los Angeles to take command of the AFC West.

Marquez Valdes-Scantling had three catches for 84 yards and a touchdown, Rashee Rice and Isiah Pacheco also caught TD passes, and the Chiefs (6-1) won their sixth straight to take a three-game lead in a division they have won seven straight years.

The Chiefs were leading 24-17 midway through the fourth quarter when Mecole Hardman, who returned to Kansas City this week in a trade with the New York Jets, brought back a punt 50 yards. That gave Kansas City a short field and, six plays later, Mahomes hit Pacheco out of the backfield for the touchdown that put the game away.

BROWNS 39, COLTS 38

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—Kareem Hunt scored on a 1-yard touchdown plunge with 15 seconds left, capping an 80-yard touchdown drive that gave Cleveland a win over Indianapolis.

Backup quarterback P.J. Walker used all but 15 seconds of the final 2:35 to rally the Browns for the second consecutive week, this time taking advantage of debatable back-to-back defensive penalties against the Colts, an illegal contact and a defensive pass interference call—both on cornerback Darrell Baker Jr.

The first penalty nullified a fumble recovery by the Colts. The second put the ball at the 1-yard line, setting up Hunt's fourth-down score. Hunt had 10 carries for 31 yards and two TDs.

Walker rallied Cleveland (4-2) for the second straight week. This time it was in relief of Deshaun Watson, who started his first game since Sept. 24 but left in the first quarter after taking a big hit. Watson was cleared after being evaluated for a head injury but did not return to avoid aggravating his already injured right shoulder.

BRONCOS 19, PACKERS 17

DENVER (AP)—P.J. Locke saved Denver from another second-half meltdown, intercepting Jordan Love's deep pass in the closing minutes to preserve a win over Green Bay.

Locke—subbing for safety Kareem Jackson, who was ejected for the second time this season following an illegal high hit earlier in the fourth quarter on tight end Luke Musgrave—picked off the throw intended for Samori Toure just after the two-minute warning.

The Broncos ran out the clock to give coach Sean Payton his first win at home in four tries and end a dubious streak in which Denver had lost 10 consecutive games when leading at halftime.

This time, it was a 9-0 lead the Broncos (2-5) frittered away before regaining the advantage on Wil Lutz's 52-yard field goal with 3:50 remaining.

The Packers (2-4) scored all of their points in the second half and took a 17-16 lead on Love's 4-yard touchdown pass to Jayden Reed that went off Romeo Doubs' hands.

FALCONS 16, BUCCANEERS 13

TAMPA, Fla. (AP)—Younghoe Koo's third field goal of the game, a 51-yarder as time expired, bailed out quarterback Desmond Ridder and gave mistake-prone Atlanta a win over Tampa Bay.

The Falcons (4-3) snapped an eight-game road losing streak and moved atop the NFC South ahead of the Bucs (3-3) despite Ridder losing three fumbles inside Tampa Bay's red zone, including one that cost him a 12-yard touchdown run that would have put Atlanta up 10 points with less than four minutes to go.

Ridder's fumble on a sack stopped the Falcons from breaking a 10-10 tie just before halftime. The young quarterback lost another fumble in the third quarter, one play after Drake London's 13-yard reception gave the Falcons a first down inside the Bucs 1.

STEELERS 24, RAMS 17

INGLEWOOD, Calif. (AP)—Jaylen Warren and Najee Harris rushed for touchdowns in the fourth quarter, and Pittsburgh awoke from a quiet offensive day just in time to beat Los Angeles.

Kenny Pickett passed for 230 yards and ran for a score for the Steelers (4-2), who had just 110 yards in the first three quarters. Pittsburgh's only early touchdown came after T.J. Watt intercepted Matthew Stafford's first pass of the second half and returned it inside the Los Angeles 10, setting up Pickett's TD sneak.

Coordinator Matt Canada's offense finally found some holes in the Los Angeles defense in the fourth quarter, racking up three long drives culminating in two TDs and the chance to run out the clock. George Pickens made four of his five receptions for 107 yards in the second half.

Pickett got a generous spot on a sneak to convert a fourth-and-1 at the two-minute warning, allowing Pittsburgh to secure the franchise's first win over the Rams in Los Angeles.

SEAHAWKS 20, CARDINALS 10

SEATTLE (AP)—Kenneth Walker III rushed for a season-high 105 yards, rookies Jaxon Smith-Njigba and Jake Bobo both caught first-half touchdown passes, and Seattle beat Arizona.

The Seahawks (4-2) relied on their defense to make key stops in the second half after a handful of mistakes.

Geno Smith threw for 219 yards and connected with his rookie pass catchers while DK Metcalf missed the first game of his career. Smith-Njigba caught his first NFL touchdown on a 28-yard reception in the first quarter and Bobo made a terrific 18-yard TD catch in the second quarter.

But Smith's performance was shaky at times. He threw an interception and lost a fumble, allowing Arizona (1-6) to hang around into the fourth quarter.

Smith completed 18 of 24 passes. Smith-Njigba and Bobo each had four receptions and became the first pair of Seattle rookies to catch TDs in the same game since 2015.

BEARS 30, RAIDERS 12

CHICAGO (AP)—Undrafted rookie Tyson Bagent led three touchdown drives with Justin Fields sidelined, D'Onta Foreman ran for two scores and caught a TD pass, and Chicago beat Las Vegas.

The Bears (2-5) won for the second time in three games after dropping 14 in a row. They won a showdown of backup quarterbacks after both teams' starters were injured the previous week.

Brian Hoyer threw for 129 yards and two interceptions in place of Jimmy Garoppolo for the Raiders (3-4), whose two-game winning streak ended.

The Bears relied on short throws and handoffs with Bagent — who played last year for Division II Shepherd University in West Virginia — behind center. He completed 21 of 29 passes for 162 yards and a TD, helping Chicago stop a 10-game home losing streak.

Foreman ran for 89 yards on 16 attempts and his first two touchdowns since signing with Chicago in March. He scored from the 2 in the first quarter and from the 3 early in the second as the Bears grabbed a 14-0 lead, then caught a 5-yard TD in the third to make it 21-3.

Jaylon Johnson had two late interceptions. He returned one against Hoyer 39 yards for a touchdown to make it 30-6 and then picked off Chicago-area product Aidan O'Connell.

GIANTS 14, COMMANDERS 7

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP)—Tyrod Taylor threw two second-quarter touchdown passes and New York's defense had six sacks and made a last-minute stand to beat Washington, snapping a four-game skid.

Taylor, starting for the second straight week with Daniel Jones sidelined with a neck injury, hit Darren Waller from 15 yards and added a 32-yard TD pass to Saquon Barkley as New York (2-5) scored its first offensive first-half touchdowns of the season. He finished 18 of 29 for 279 yards.

Dexter Lawrence had two sacks for New York and Kayvon Thibodeaux added 1 1/2. Chase Young had two sacks for the Commanders.

Brian Robinson Jr. scored on a 4-yard run for Washington (3-4) early in the third quarter after Giants veteran Sterling Shepard muffed a punt and the Commanders, who were limited to 46 yards in the first half, recovered at the 21.

4-time NBA champion Andre Iguodala retires

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Andre Iguodala, a four-time champion with the Golden State Warriors during a 19-year NBA career, is retiring.

"It's just the right time," the 39-year-old Iguodala told Andscape in a telephone interview for a story published Friday. "Time started to get limited for me and I didn't want to put anything in the back seat. I didn't want to have to try to delegate time anymore. Especially with on the court, off the court with family. A lot."

He said family has a lot of do with his decision.

"You want to play at a high level. But then family is a lot. My son is 16 and then two girls. So, (I'm) looking forward to seeing them grow up in those important years," he said.

Iguodala, the No. 9 overall pick in the 2004 NBA draft out of Arizona, played in 1,231 games. He spent eight seasons with the Philadelphia 76ers, one in Denver, six with Golden State, two in Miami and the last two back with the Warriors. He was part of NBA champions in 2015, 2017, 2018 and 2022 and the MVP of the Finals in 2015.

Over his career, he averaged 11.3 points— including a high of 19.9 with the 76ers in 2007-08—4.9 rebounds and 4.2 assists. He made his only All-Star appearance in 2012 with the 76ers.

"He's one of the main reasons we've got those four banners hanging up. He was a foundational piece of what has been one of the great runs in NBA history," Warriors coach Steve Kerr said. "In many ways, Andre set the tone for the whole thing by agreeing to come off the bench in 2014-15, really sacrificing, and making the move that unlocked the team that allowed Harrison (Barnes) to thrive, that strengthened our bench, but also set a tone for unselfishness and team first mentality. ... Andre was just special."

AP

Golden State Warriors Stephen Curry, left, and Andre Iguodala kiss the Larry O'Brien Trophy after defeating the Cleveland Cavaliers 105-97 in Game 6 of basketball's NBA Finals in Cleveland, June 17, 2015.

MOC

From page 20

the beautiful turquoise water of the Marianas."

She added that this is her second V1 race for the Micronesia Cup. Last year, it was held in Palau, and Ball said "I only had one practice with the V1 and didn't place. But this year, in 2023, coach [Jason] Tarkong and I have been putting in more time practicing with the V1 after Palau. So, I want to thank him for his efforts, time, and patience in training me harder. The local competition has also been helping us work harder. Our hard work paid off this year in the Micronesian Cup 2023 in Guam… We are not going to stop here. We will continue to improve and perform better in every next race."

She then thanked the Northern Marianas Nationals Paddling Sports Federation for supporting its members. "Thank you to coach Jason Tarkong for all his efforts, patience, guidance, discipline, and even the occasional frustration scream. Thank you to all the supportive members of the MOC men's and women's teams for always showing up to practice. We have all achieved this together and a big thank you for all the friendships and experiences with every paddler in Saipan and Guam, I am very proud to be part of the community."

MOC president and paddler Tim Asaivao, for his part, said overall it was a great competition. "Everyone paddled hard for three days. There were a lot of strong clubs that made for action packed races with exciting finishes."

The struggles were that they took some time to adjust to the water conditions and canoe type.

"Matapang Beach can run shallow sometimes and the wind and current run opposite directions so we made some adjustments to accommodate that," he said.

The highlights of the competition, he said, was that it was the first time they competed in the mix crew category.

"We have not practiced as a mixed crew and just wanted to get our feet wet, and the crews went out there and won a gold in the 1000m, silver in the 500m, and bronze in the marathon. Also just seeing the camaraderie of the group—the way they cheered for one another, supported, and looked out for one another on and off the water. It's a great group we have here and makes it that much easier going to battle when everyone cares for each other."

He added that the women had a strong performance and swept the sprints then took a close second in the marathon. "The women and coach Tarkong should be very proud of their consistent and outstanding performances. The men's team faced some adversity in the sprints but regrouped, refocused, and answered the call with a decisive gold victory in the marathon. Pip (Ball) showed off her hard year of V1 training with a silver in the 500m Sprint. As a team it was a great outing—they represented our club and the island of Saipan very well."

MOC would like to thank their families for their support and understanding.

"Our community sponsors are Ace Hardware, Aloha Alkaline, Moylan's Insurance, Pacifica Insurance, Joeten Motors, Joeten Superstore, Calvo Insurance Rota, Saipan Stevedore, All Star Sporting Goods, Boarderline, The Athletes Foot, Saipan Shipping Company, DFS Enterprises, Turnkey Solutions, The Shack Saipan, Tropical Instant Press, Saipan Apparel, Pena House Boutique, Seasoned with Hafa Adai, Pualani Crown, Saku Bloom, Spndylus, Hyatt, Stitched, Ginen Marianas, and Beyer Woodworking said Asaivao."

He then congratulated all the Saipan teams for their own medal haul and great performances.

Results of NMNPSF's other clubs—Saipan Paddling Club and Marianas Pacific Paddlers—races will be posted in the next editions of *Saipan Tribune.*

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, 23rd Annual Micronesia Cup Canoe Race race director Ron Ruiz poses with V1 500m sprints bronze medalist Melanie Escobar, gold medalist Kiara Quichocho, and silver medalist Marianas Outrigger Club's Pipit Ball at an awards ceremony after the race in Guam over the weekend.

LEIGH GASES

Marianas Outrigger Club's men's team is seen paddling during one of their races in the 23rd Annual Micronesia Cup Canoe Race awards ceremony in Guam over the weekend.

JUST

From page 20

the hero with a go-ahead grand slam, instead, he swung and missed for a strikeout and that was the ball game.

Kimo Angailen hit three homers for No Excuse, while Brandon Hocog and Jun Hocog hit two each. For Just 4 Fun, Yamada, Jay Kintol, and Nate Camacho blasted two home runs each.

The Bat Boys, on the other hand, blew Kebruka out of the field, 14-4.

Kebruka could not get home runs off of Bat Boys pitcher Sus Iguel and settled for ground ball and base hits. The problem with that was the Bat Boys launched multiple balls out of the field for an early 4-0 lead by the second inning.

Kebruka snagged a run by way of Mokes Iyekar, then Ben Leon Guerrero drove another run in the third inning with an additional home run by Chris Alepuyo, but they were down, 3-6 after a three-run homer by Bat Boys' Irvin Saralu.

Kebruka managed to nip just one more run in the fifth inning, which the Bat Boys took as a green light to score more runs and take the win.

The Bat Boys scored seven runs in the last inning and secured the W.

After the semis, a home run derby was held, with Angailen taking first place. Second place went to Tony Salas and third place was Nate Camacho.

The best-of-three championship is set for Sunday, Oct. 28, at 10am, with the awards ceremony to follow.

LEIGH GASES

No Excuse's Kimo Angailen is the home run derby king in the home run derby after the semis round of the 2023 Budweiser Belau Amateur Softball Association Slow Pitch Open League at the Dandan Softball Field last Sunday.

CHAVEZ

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15:24.50, followed by John F. Kennedy High School's Hugh Kent with a time of 16:24.90, and Nathaniel Carlson who clocked in at 17:09.60.

CNMI coach and Saipan International School headmaster Dr. Ron Snyder, who accompanied the team in Guam, said of Miller and Chavez' accomplishments, "API is a highly competitive field and to have two athletes in the Top 15, and even more so, in the Top 10, is a great accomplishment. Kaithlyn finished No. 4. That is the best result that we have ever seen in the history of our participation. Michael finished No. 8 and is only a freshman."

Chavez, a junior at SIS, said she's been wanting to compete in the championships since last year but couldn't because it conflicted with her volleyball games. This time around when she finally competed, she said, "I would say the competition is a once-in-a-lifetime experience, being able to run against schools from Japan, Korea, Palau, and Guam was a great opportunity and you can't do that on a daily basis. I was able to push myself mentally and physically and I would for sure say I definitely learned a lot as a runner."

On how she felt about getting fourth place in a division with 98 other runners, she said "I'm very humbled and blessed that I got fourth place but there's definitely more room to improve and become a better, faster runner."

She added, "Sadly there were no broken PRs but I'm glad of how I ran because I know I gave my all and pushed myself. I would like to say thank you to Dr. Ron and Ms. Angela Taflinger for chaperoning us during the trip and for pushing me and my teammates to the best of our abilities."

Miller, a freshman at Marianas High School, said the competition was good overall. "It's a very competitive environment so I'm happy that I was able to get in the top ten spot…It was a good experience to see the level that other countries are at and it's exciting to compete against them," said Miller who ran in a division with 130 other runners.

He then thanked his teammates for "supporting me and the coaching staff too. I would also like to thank my parents for allowing me to go off-island and compete against other countries."

Results of the overall team and relay scores will be posted in the next edition of *Saipan Tribune.*

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The CNMI's Andrei Kaithlyn Chavez and Michael Miller make a Nadal after giving the CNMI two All-Island Athlete awardees in the 5K cross country race of the Asia Pacific International Cross Country Championships held in Guam last Friday and Saturday.

Eovaldi remains perfect, Rangers slug way to force Game 7 in ALCS.

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Sports

4-time NBA champion Andre Iguodala retires.

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Chavez, Miller earn All-Island Athlete honors

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Andrei Kaithlyn Chavez and Michael Miller tore up the 5K cross country course in their respective divisions of the Asia Pacific International Cross Country Championships in Guam last Friday and Saturday.

For their speed and control along the tough course at Ypao Beach—which was full of hairpin turns and switchbacks—Chavez claimed the No. 4 spot in the girls division overall, which landed her on the list of All-Island Athlete during the championships.

Miller came in eighth place overall among the boys and was the second All-Island Athlete for Team CNMI—which is the first time ever the Commonwealth had two All-Island Athletes in one year.

The Top 15 men and Top 15 women are selected as All-Island Athletes. Chavez and Miller ran against cross country runners from Guam, Japan, South Korea, Palau, and their teammates from the CNMI.

Chavez maintained a 7:00.2 1,600m pace and finished with a time of 21:53.1, which was only a few seconds off finishing in the Top 3, as third place finisher Lydia Ro of Yongsan International School, South Korea finished with a time of 21:47.50.

Second place was Yuki Konomi with a time of 21:46.60 and first place was Sofia Soto at 20:44, both from International School of the Sacred Heart, Tokyo Japan.

In the boys division, Miller leapt and bounded into eighth place overall with a time of 18:37. The Top 3 were William Beardsley from St. Mary's International School at

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CNMI's Michael Miller, right, is seen exiting one of the jungle exits of the 5K cross country course in the Asia Pacific International Cross Country Championships on Guam last Friday. His eighth-place finish earned him the title of All-Island Athlete in the boys division, which only the Top 15 finishers get.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CNMI's Andrei Kaithlyn Chavez runs on the scenic Ypao Beach along the 5K cross county course of the Asia Pacific International Cross Country Championships on Guam last Friday. Her fourth overall finish landed her the title of All-Island Athlete in the girls division, which only the Top 15 finishers get.

MOC hauls 8 medals, Pipit bags silver in Micro Cup

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Marianas Outrigger Club hauled a lot of hardware during the three-day 23rd Annual Micronesia Cup Canoe Race held off the waters of Matapang Beach, Guam last weekend.

Unfamiliar waters did little to deter MOC's paddlers as they rowed themselves and their canoes past other teams from Micronesia. For their time under the sun and salty water and air, MOC bagged four gold medals, three silver medals, and one bronze medal.

They won gold in the women's 500m sprints with a time of 3:01; in the women's 1,000m race with a time of 6:26; the men's long distance 10-mile marathon race at 1:36:00; and the mixed 1,000m race with a time of 6:15.

Pipit Ball won a silver medal in the V1 500m sprints with a time of 2:55 and MOC finished second in the women's long distance 10-mile marathon race with a time of 1:52:00 and in the mixed 500m sprints with a time of 3:03.

Their lone bronze medal was in the mixed long distance 8-mile race with a time of 1:42:00.

Ball, who competed with seven other V1 paddlers, said that it "created an exciting and competitive atmosphere. Everyone gave their best, adding more pressure and making it a bit intimidating in good ways."

She said she felt "confident and great this year," in her race as she was prepared and ready to compete with new faces in a different place again.

The conditions, she said, were "all different this time, but I wouldn't call it a struggle. We practiced in different conditions in Saipan, so I see it as just another day of "paddling day all day." Practice and training are always the hardest parts, the competition day is the time to prepare our mental readiness."

Her strategy was to "listen to the coach, stay composed, focused, and calm. I did my best and enjoyed the glides in

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LEIGH GASES

Marianas Outrigger Club's paddlers show off their medals during the 23rd Annual Micronesia Cup Canoe Race awards ceremony in Guam over the weekend.

Just 4 Fun, Bat Boys to bash it out in BASA finals

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Just 4 Fun and Aimeliik Bat Boys clinched the finals spot after defeating their foes in the semis of the 2023 Budweiser Belau AMateur Softball Association Slow Pitch Open League at the Dandan Softball Field last Sunday.

Both teams are equally matched as they go head-to-head with just one loss throughout the season. It will be a matter of who wants the championship the most.

Just 4 Fun clinched the first finals spot after narrowly winning against No Excuse, 23-19. With a two-run home run by Just 4 Fun's Shane Yamada, he gave them the extra leverage they needed as No Excuse had the final at-bat.

It was all or nothing for No Excuse in the last inning. Down by seven runs, they put their bat into motion and began to chip away at Just 4 Fun's lead.

Audie Maratita started it off with a lead-off home run, then Marv Kaipat got on base in time for Verlance Secharmidal's two-run home run. The game was now 18-23. J.D. Magofna scored one more run, 19-23.

With two outs, bases loaded, Henry Lizama stepped onto the plate. Trying to be

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LEIGH GASES

Just 4 Fun poses for a photo after they clinched their semis game against No Excuse in the 2023 Budweiser Belau Amateur Softball Association Slow Pitch Open League at the Dandan Softball Field last Sunday.